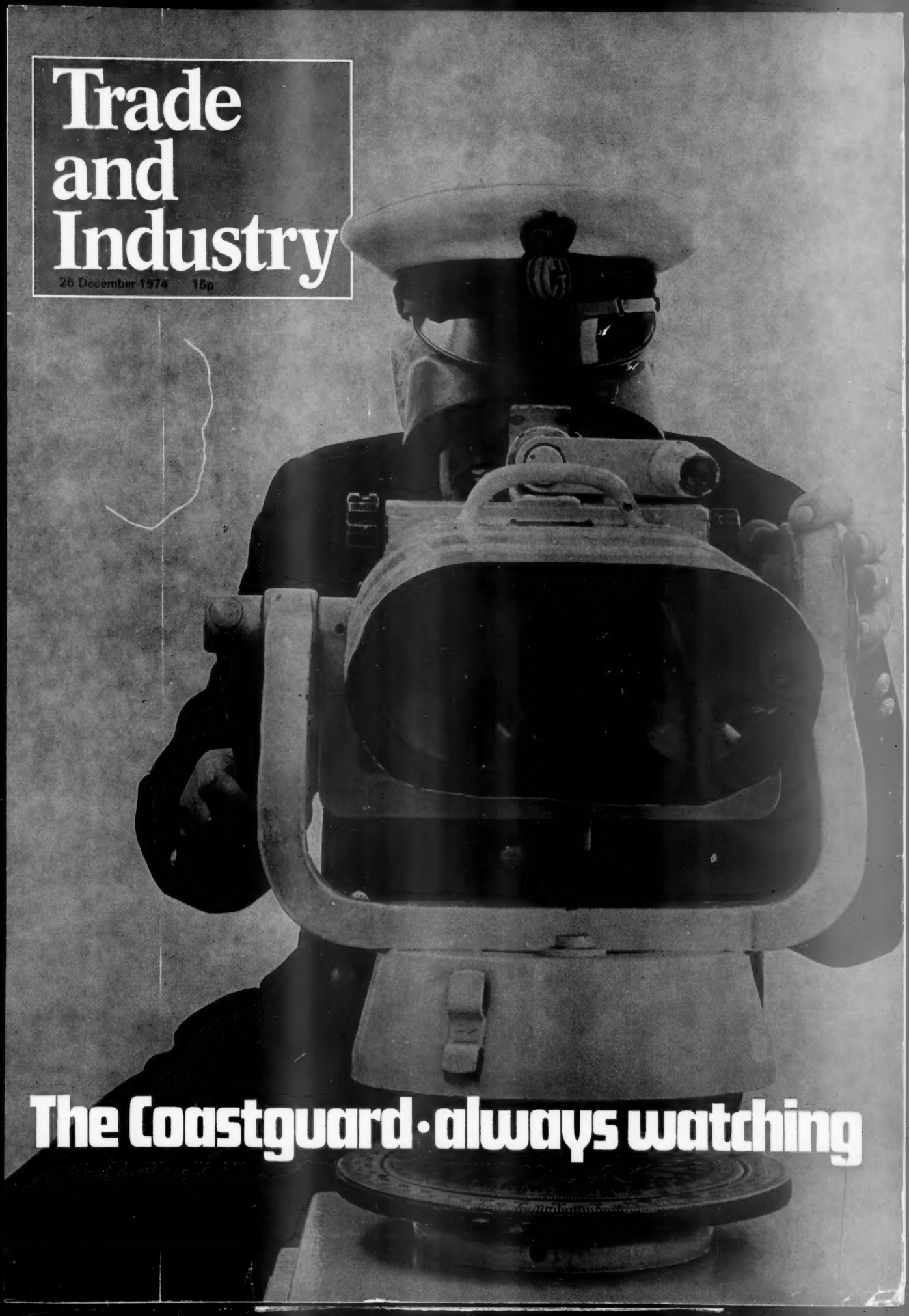
Trade and Industry

26 December 1974 15p



The Coastguard · always watching

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Trade and Industry

26 December 1974

News from the Departments of Industry·Trade·Prices & Consumer Protection

The Coastguard keeping a sharp look-out at Walton-on-Naze. An article on page 685 looks at the way they have been operating the Separation Scheme in Dover Strait and shows how Coastguard equipment has been transformed.

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The Coastguard·always watching

Jennifer Clarke looks at some of the Coastguard's latest equipment and the Channel Navigation Information Service

With typical understatement, the Coastguard describe their work as 'essentially a problem of co-ordination'. It is true however that as soon as they are alerted, they may need to call on a number of life-saving or rescue services, and rapid communications are vital. There was a time when the official procedure consisted of the coastguard on a bicycle going to the nearest telephone. In recent years, however, there has been something of a transformation and rather more sophisticated equipment has been introduced.

As recently as 1965, the new look-out at Gorleston at Divisional Headquarters contained only a medium frequency radio, a telephone, and a pair of 'Doppel' binoculars. By comparison, the new Operations Room at Thames Rescue Headquarters, opened in July this year, is substantially better equipped containing two MF tranceivers (the Coastguard co-operates with the Post Office Coast Radio stations on MF frequency), two VHF transceivers located on the Naze Tower and controlled by land line, two VHF transceivers for additional channel monitoring, Marconi Lodestar Auto MF/DF, Auto telex Mk XV, Telephone Tape Callmaker, a recording facility on radio and telephone channels, an experimental personal call (bleeper) system operating on VHF Channel 0 and three telephone lines.

In other areas, video display units are being appraised, and different types of recording equipment are being looked at to monitor and record Channel 16, the international marine VHF calling and safety frequency. The rigorous criteria applied in each case is whether the equipment can improve watch keeping ability without raising manpower.

As co-ordinators of search and rescue the Coastguard often call on the Royal National Lifeboat Institution for help if a lifeboat is needed. They can also call on helicopters, belonging to the Royal Air Force, to the Royal Navy or in one case, to British Airways at Dyce, Aberdeen.

Despite initial fears that they would not stand up to severe weather conditions, helicopters are being used more and more often, and are fast becoming a general purpose search and rescue vehicle capable of undertaking most of the SAR tasks in the United Kingdom, both inshore and well out to sea.

The provision of new equipment, VHF radio, for instance, is making it possible to carry out rescue in circumstances which, a few years ago, would have ended in tragedy.

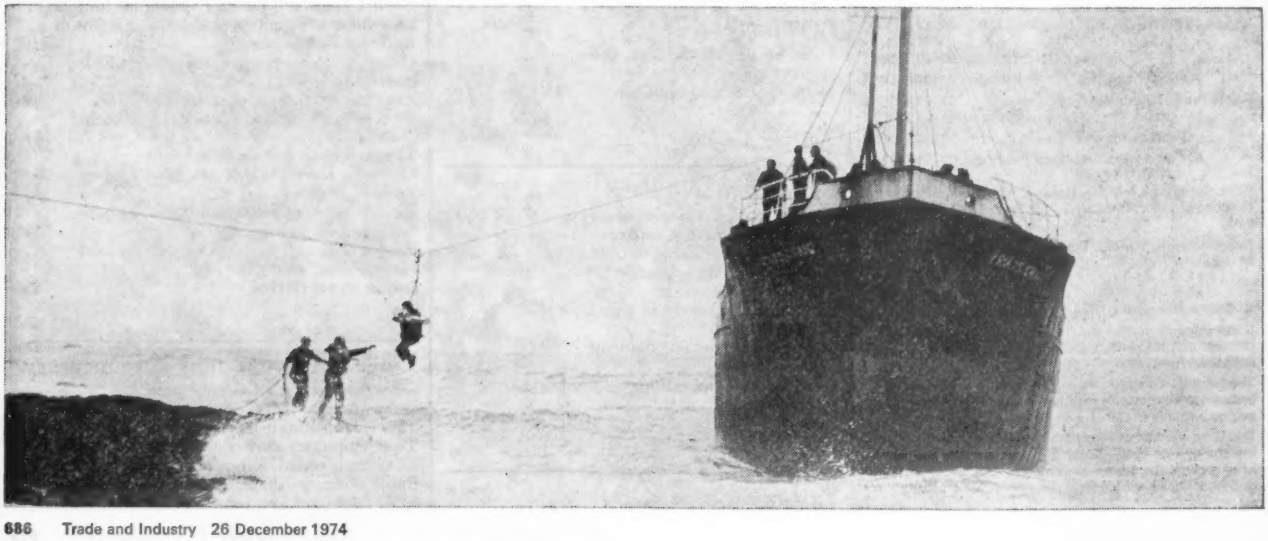
On 30 December 1973, two men were thrown into the water when their 17 ft. 'Flying Fifteen' struck an underwater obstruction and was holed off Whitstable, Kent. The only witness was uncertain what had happened. By the time he had tried five different houses before finding a telephone, he began to have some misgivings about what he had actually seen. Somewhat reluctantly he dialled 999 and was put through to the Coastguard Duty Officer at Margate.

Although the report seemed doubtful, the Duty Officer asked him to stay by the telephone. This is always the first step with 999 callers, who otherwise tend to 'wander off'.

The Duty Officer then called Manston Coastguard on VHF '"Immediate 999" call report of sailing boat capsized about five minutes ago off Swalecliffe, Whitstable. Sighted by informant from Studhill. Request scramble.' He contacted Herne Bay Coastguard, instructing the Auxiliary to get in touch with the witness at Studhill, and asked Warden Point Coastguard to launch the Whitstable Inshore Lifeboat.

When the Manston helicopter arrived at the reported position, the scene below looked peaceful. The various boats in the area appeared to be sailing normally. Visibility was about one mile, which made them wonder how it could have been possible to see anything to seaward of Swalecliffe from Studhill. Meanwhile the Auxiliary from Herne Bay had driven in the official Hillman Imp to meet the eye-witness. By using VHF radio he was able to direct the helicopter to

A classic case of rescue by breeches buoy when Prawle Point Auxiliary Coastguard helped two men and a woman to safety after the fishing vessel 'Friars Craig' went ashore at Lannacombe. Picture by Karl Savage.



a sailing dinghy with a red jib and a white mainsail, information which had not been given in the original telephone call. From a distance the boat appeared to be sailing normally, and there was no sign of trouble.

As the helicopter came closer, however, they saw there was only one man in the dinghy, waving violently. About thirty yards away a boy was in the water face down. The lifting operation was started at once and two minutes later the boy was winched into the cabin. He was dressed in casual clothing and wearing a buoyancy aid which was coming undone. He was not breathing, there was no pulse and he looked dead.

Cardiac massage was started and after 45 seconds there was some response. The boy was given oxygen, using the Respirex hand resuscitator and there was some further slight improvement, but his condition still seemed grave.

As the aircrew were aware, by now the Whitstable ILB was well on its way, which enabled them to give priority to the youth on board the aircraft, who was clearly in need of immediate medical attention. They set course for Margate Hospital, applying oxygen all the way.

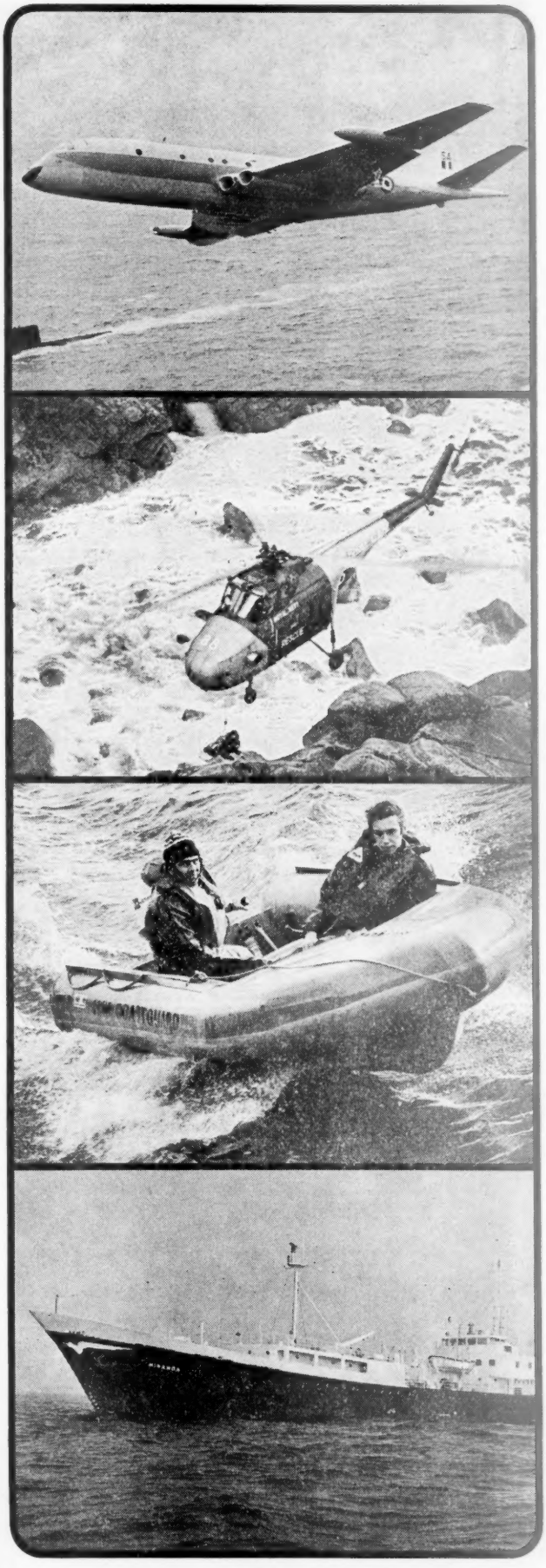
The story had a happy ending, although the boy who had been picked up from the water did not regain consciousness for almost four hours. Although credit is clearly due to the Coastguard, and indeed to the eye-witness who made the initial report, the fact remains that without equipment such as the helicopter and VHF radio, which made communication possible between the aircraft and the ground, this rescue would not have been successful. It is only in the last few years that, for the Coastguard, this type of radio communications equipment has been available.

Few people realise that Coastguard responsibility extends about 1,000 miles out into the Atlantic. To cope with long distance searches, such as the hunt for the trawler *Gaul*, Nimrods can be called on, specially fitted out with MF radios so that they can communicate with the Coastguard, through the Post Office Coast Radio Stations, and also with ships at sea.

To some extent, the pattern of casualties varies around the Coast. In Dover Strait Division for instance, Beachy Head, with its ill-fated reputation draws an unfortunate number of suicides. Out of 12 in the past year, the Coastguard, using their cliff rescue techniques, were only able to recover one alive. But the Dover Strait was even more notorious for collisions in foggy weather.

It was estimated that roughly 54 per cent of worldwide collisions occurred in the English Channel and southern North Sea. In the early sixties this led to discussions among mariners about the regulation of this traffic and some companies began to tell their Masters to keep to the right hand of the Strait. In 1967 IMCO recommended a traffic separation scheme which largely endorsed this practice, and ships began to conform.

A purely voluntary system existed when, in January 1971, there occurred the first in a chain of disasters. On 11 January, the *Caracas* collided with the *Texaco Caribbean* and the latter exploded and sank. Dover and Dungeness Lifeboats were launched and a Norwegian ship picked up nineteen survivors. Ten crew members were still missing and the search continued, helped at daylight by the helicopter from RAF Thorney Island. None were found. Although a Navigational Warning to Shipping was issued and a Trinity vessel came out to mark the wreck, they were not in time to prevent the German ship *Brandenburg* striking the sunken half of the



Picture shows Nimrod, which the Coastguard can call on for long-distance searches; a helicopter being used for cliff rescue; a Coastguard inflatable craft and the Fishery Support vessel 'Miranda'.

Texaco Caribbean and foundering, a day after the original disaster.

The *Viking Warrior*, a fishing vessel from Folkestone found a person on a raft near the wreck but inadvertently sent out a 'Mayday' on the trawler frequency instead of the Distress frequency, so initial reports of this second casualty were confused. Surface vessels, including lifeboats and a helicopter carried out a thorough search. Of the *Brandenburg* crew, 11 survivors were picked up by fishing vessels and seven bodies recovered.

This time Trinity House marked the whole area by a Wreck-marking Lightvessel, together with five lighted buoys. But these precautions did not prevent the Greek vessel *Niki* from entering the Wreck Area and sinking with the total loss of her crew of 22 men.

After this series of fatalities, the Marine Division of the Department of Trade decided that passive recommendations were not enough. An experimental survey of traffic conditions was carried out by the National Physical Laboratory using hired radar equipment at Dungeness and in order to enforce the IMCO recommendations it was eventually decided to re-open the Coastguard station at St Margaret's Bay near Dover, equipped with radar, and to ask NPL to undertake detailed studies of the traffic flow in the Dover Strait area.

Once the radar was installed it enabled a full-scale traffic survey to be made from the Coastguard Station, which was followed by surveys from stations at sea using radar aboard the Coastguard Fishery Support vessel *Miranda*. Films of the radar displays were analysed and revealed that, every 24 hours, about 310 ships passed through the Strait. From details of ships identified in a later survey, with the help of Royal Navy helicopters, it was possible to infer that some $1\frac{1}{2}$ million tons of oil and 50,000 tons of other hazardous cargoes are carried through each day.

A camera system installed at St Margaret's Bay now provides continuous records of the surveillance radar. In addition to confirming the earlier figures, the records also show that, at the height of the summer season, as many as 210 ferry crossings are made in one day.

There are further stages in the plan to improve surveillances which will involve installing radar at Dungeness and opening a new operations centre at Langdon Bay. A joint Anglo-French study is in progress on the possibility of erecting radar on the Sandettie Bank.

Meanwhile the radar has been continually in use at the small Coastguard Station at St Margaret's Bay, where they have also been transmitting Information Service broadcasts. These are put out on Channel 10 every half-hour, or every 15 minutes if visibility is poor. One broadcast on 28 November, for instance, included the information that the Bassurelle Lightvessel had moved one mile east of the charted position, that the North Colbart Buoy was missing, and went on to list a further eight buoys that were missing, unlit, not flashing or off their chartered position. This is the type of general, static navigational information which is given in part I of the broadcast. Weather forecasts and visibility actuals may also be included.

Part II deals with tactical information about ships including reports on those contravening the traffic scheme regula-

The Coastguard Station at Shoreham.

Cliff rescue equipment being tested during an exercise at Holyhead.

The Polish trawler 'Nurzee' stranded three miles north of Aberdeen earlier this year. During rescue operations a British Airways helicopter landed three times on the beach in a Force 9 gale to pick up injured survivors after a ship's lifeboat had capsized.

tions. During the same broadcast, the positions were given of a vessel drifting without power, and of a container ship stopped and NUC (not under command). Wide berths were requested.

The frequencies required for the Information Service give some idea of the complexity of operations at St. Margaret's Bay. VHF Channel 10 is used for broadcasts, Channel 16 for warnings of non-scheduled broadcasts, Channel 0 is continuously monitored and used as a standby for control of identification vessels, helicopters, aircraft and co-ordination with Cap Gris Nez, Channel 12 for reaching Dover Port Control for notice of ferry sailings and oil pollution and Channel 13 for oil pollution; 2677 kHz is the main link with Cap Gris Nez and UHF is used for contact with Naval Sea Devons. In addition the Duty Station Officer monitors 2182 kHz.

Since September 1972 the IMCO recommendations have been mandatory. All UK registered ships are now subject to the separation scheme. Norway, West Germany, Denmark, Belgium, Liberia and Sweden have now followed suit. Although the regulations have not been officially introduced in France, in practice there is close co-ordination between the St. Margaret's Bay Coastguard and Cap Gris Nez, who started similar Information Broadcasts on VHF Channel 11.

Even so, the number of 'rogues' (ships breaking the regulations) has been surprisingly high at about 34 every 24 hours. In recent months this average has however fallen to about 28 and Capt. Emden, the Coastguard Inspector at Dover Strait hopes this is part of the general pattern of ships taking more notice of the separation scheme. Now that the radar is in operation, ships know they are being watched and there is more publicity attached to big collisions.

Such 'rogues' as there are fall into two main categories. Fishing trawlers sailing up to the North Sea comprise about 60 per cent of the total. There is obviously a great temptation to steer a straight course even if it does mean breaking the rules. The rest are relatively hard line cases.

At the moment the 'policing' of the Dover Straits is divided each week between a Naval Sea Devon, for four days, a Naval Patrol Vessel for one day, a French Patrol Vessel for one day and French naval aircraft for about half a day. The Coastguard also have a charter arrangement with a civil aircraft company. Using these craft, 'rogues' whose courses have been followed by radar can then be identified by name and port of register.

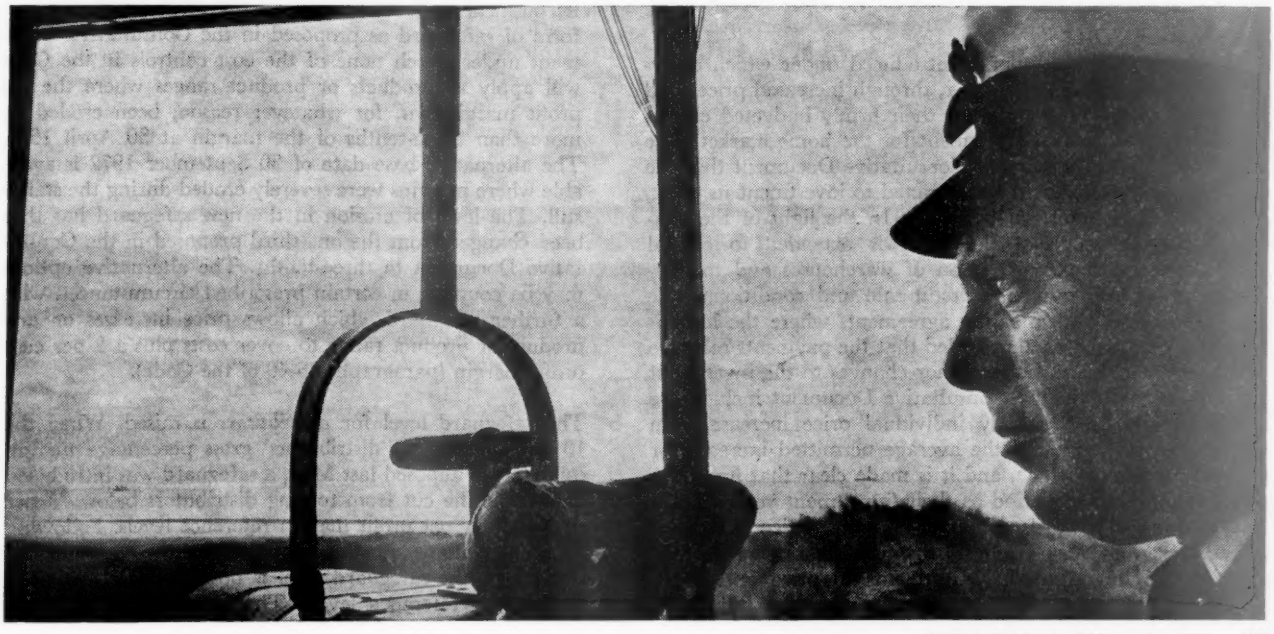
If the ship is British, a telex is sent to the Marine Division of the Department of Trade who discover its destination. If it is a UK port, a nautical surveyor from the Marine Division is waiting on the quay when the ship docks. He tells the Master about the alleged offence and asks for an explanation. A letter is sent if the ship is heading for a foreign port. In the case of foreign 'rogues' the Department of Trade writes to the government concerned.

So far, the UK have prosecuted eight ships, all of which pleaded guilty and had to pay about £180 (£80 fine and £100 costs). There are also three cases coming up, but the waiting period is a long one. It takes six months to get the master of a UK ship to Court in Dover or Deal.

Since the Information Service started in 1972, there has been a significant fall in the annual number of collisions and groundings in the Dover Strait. For example, in the years 1969-1971 there was a total of 35, whereas in almost the same period since 1972 there have been only 16. Of course the figures vary from year to year and must be treated with caution. In 1961, for instance, there were 28 collisions in the whole of the Dover Strait. Nevertheless it is worth pointing out that within the area covered by St. Margaret's Bay radar there were four collisions in 1972, three in 1973 and one in 1974, up to the time of publication. Of course the Coastguard are understandably reluctant to claim success, perhaps with a superstitious dread of premature congratulation. When dealing with relatively small numbers, such results could be nullified by bad weather. But even at the most cautious estimate, there are signs that conditions are improving.

Radar is a specialised piece of equipment which is, at the moment, only in use at Dover Strait. St. Anns Head, Milford Haven, and at Berry Head, Brixham. At Warden Point, Sheppey there is a combined Port of London Authority/ Coastguard Tower, where PLA radar can be used by the Coastguard when needed. There is a small emergency/ training radar at Deal. Mobile radar has been under trial and it is likely that other schemes at Lowestoft and Calshot will result in wider use of radar by the Coastguard.

This is all part of the general transformation. In the last two years new methods of communication have been introduced. In the past the Coastguard have not had much help from modern technology. They have been expected to rely on their own hardy resourcefulness. They still do, of course, but perhaps it has been recognised that if courage is a constant, new equipment can make it go further.



Home News

New Price Code

The new Price Code, published on 18 December, makes several changes designed chiefly to encourage industrial efficiency and productive investment, and to alleviate some features of the price controls which could put employment at risk.

The new Code, which came into operation on 20 December, retains the overall framework of price and profit margin control, but with substantial changes which broadly follow the lines of those put forward in the Consultative Document, 'Review of the Price Code' (Cmnd. 5779), published on 12 November. These proposals have been the subject of wide consultations between the Government and representatives of industry, commerce, trade unions and consumers, as well as the Price Commission. As a result of these consultations, although the Government has not been able to accept industry's further representations that price controls should be abandoned; or that they should permit increased labour costs to be passed through into prices without limit, a number of modifications have been made to the proposals in the Consultative Document.

The major changes made to the previous Code, including the main modifications arising from the consultations, are:

Productivity deduction

The productivity deduction, which enterprises are required to absorb when passing through labour cost increases into prices, is reduced from 50 per cent to a standard rate of 20 per cent with a tapering up to a maximum of 35 per cent for the least labour-intensive products and processes and a tapering down to rates of less than 10 per cent for products which are highly labour-intensive. These changes will apply to labour cost increases first incurred on or after 1 November 1974. However, in the light of the consultations a transitional rate of reduction of 35 per cent (similarly tapered upwards and downwards according to labour-intensiveness) is introduced in place of the 50 per cent deduction for labour cost increases first incurred before 1 November, but after the date of the last price increase before 1 November, for the product or range of products concerned (paragraph 34 of the Code).

Investment relief

A new investment relief is introduced under which enterprises will be entitled to recover, through increased prices and profit margins, 17½ per cent of their firmly budgeted capital expenditure on certain investment for the home market. The Government proposed in the Consultative Document that the scope of the relief should be restricted to investment in plant, machinery and industrial buildings. In the light of the consultations, the scope of the relief is extended to capital expenditure on the construction of warehouses and to payments under hire purchase, credit sale and conditional sale agreements and under leasing agreements where the lease is for more than two years, provided that the payments relate to plant and machinery. Other minor changes to the investment relief as proposed in the Consultative Document include the raising of the limit on any individual price increase from three times to four times the average permitted increase for the enterprise as a whole, and it is made clear that firms can select any 12 month period as their 'investment year' from 1 December 1974 onwards, although 56 days' notice will be required from Category I and II firms before prices or profit margins can be adjusted. Adjustments to price and profit margins in exchange for investment under the relief can remain in force until 31 March 1976, the date when the statutory powers expire (paragraph 79 of the Code).

Safeguards

a Industry's representations on the safeguard for *manufacturing and service enterprises* took two forms; a request first for an increase in the level at which profits should be safeguarded; secondly for an option between the old and the new forms of safeguard. The Government could not accept that the new safeguard should be at the level industry wanted. But it has accepted that enterprises should have an option which must be exercised by the unit for profit margin control purposes on its first invocation of the safeguard to increase prices under the new Code on any of its products. The choice will be between, on the one hand, the equivalent of the safeguard in the previous Code, under which the allowable cost constraints do not apply if the enterprise can demonstrate that it has suffered, as a result of the Code, erosion of more than one-tenth of the net profit margin in the base period over its business as a whole and, on the other hand, the new form of safeguard as proposed in the Consultative Document under which none of the cost controls in the Code will apply to products or product ranges where the net profit margin has, for whatever reason, been eroded by more than three-tenths of the margin at 30 April 1973. The alternative base date of 30 September 1972 is available where margins were severely eroded during the standstill. The level of erosion in the new safeguard has thus been changed from the one-third proposed in the Consultative Document to three-tenths. The alternative options may be coupled, in certain prescribed circumstances, with a further safeguard which allows price increases on any product or product range to cover costs plus a 2 per cent profit margin (paragraphs 36-40 of the Code).

b The safeguard level for *distributors* is raised. When the 10 per cent cut in distributors' gross percentage margin ceilings was imposed last May, a safeguard was introduced to prevent the cut from forcing distributors below 75 per cent of their net profit margin reference levels. Following the consultations on the proposals in the Consultative Document, the safeguard level is now to be raised to 80 per cent of reference levels. The Government has been

unable to agree that this 10 per cent cut should be removed. But following the consultations on the proposals in the Consultative Document, the safeguard level is now to be raised to 80 per cent of reference levels, and, as proposed in the Consultative Document, distributors are to be permitted to increase their gross percentage margins up to 105 per cent of their margins in the base period (though not to 110 per cent as the distributive trades proposed) if this is necessary in order to reach the net margin safeguard level (paragraph 88 of the Code).

c As proposed in the Consultative Document, the general safeguard levels *for all enterprises* are to be raised from an 8 per cent return on capital or a 1½ per cent profit margin on turnover to 10 per cent on capital or 2 per cent on turnover (whichever is more favourable to the particular enterprise). The cost controls of the Code do not apply to firms with returns below these figures (paragraphs 77 and 78 of the Code).

Nationalised industries

Provision is made for nationalised industries to raise prices in order to earn a surplus defined as 2 per cent on turnover or 10 per cent on net assets (at the option of the particular industry). Ministers retain the power to cut back prices justified under these new provisions to the levels which would be permitted by the allowable cost rules alone (paragraphs 97-105 of the Code).

The Price Code has also been tightened in two respects as a result of the consultations on the Government's proposals. Firstly, the facility to add retrospective recovery of costs to a price increase is limited to costs first incurred on or after 1 November 1973 (paragraph 23 of the Code). Secondly, interest payments resulting from acquisitions of companies which took place after 29 April 1973 are to be excluded from the calculation of allowable cost increases as well as profit margins under the Code, although interest on acquisitions before that date may be included for both purposes (paragraphs 33 and 74 of the Code).

A considerable number of minor changes have been made to the Code to take account of changed circumstances since the Code was last revised, to correct anomalies and to clarify the existing rules where necessary. A number of minor modifications have been made to the proposals in the Consultative Document, including :

a the prices of wool tops and canned whole hams are excluded from control (paragraph 6(p) and 8(3) of the Code);

b the rules for applying the productivity deduction to escalation and variation of price clauses in contracts are amended to clarify how the deduction should be applied where a similar deduction is already required under the contract and to raise the safeguard level (below which the productivity deduction need not be applied) from two-thirds to seven-tenths of the net profit margin reference level of the enterprise (paragraphs 56 and 60 of the Code).

Associated orders

New orders setting out the related notification and information requirements were also published on 18 December and came into operation on 20 December. These are the Counter-Inflation (Notification of Increases in Prices and Charges) (No. 2) Order 1974 – SI 1974/2114 – and the Counter-Inflation (Prices and Charges) (Information) Order 1974 – SI 1974/2115. The orders do not alter the present framework of the procedures for pre-notification, reporting and record-keeping which are required to assist the Price Commission in administering the Price Code, but a considerable number of minor changes are made both to reflect new provisions in the Code (such as the investment relief) and to correct anomalies which have arisen during the operation of the controls. The Consultative Document said that the Government intended to require Category III firms to identify themselves to the Price Commission before 1 February. In view of the time that has elapsed for consultation, this deadline has now been deferred until 1 March.

The Counter-Inflation (Modification of the Civil Aviation Act 1971) Order 1974 – SI 1974/2116 – was also published on 18 December and came into operation on 20 December. This replaced the existing Order which required the Civil Aviation Authority to have regard to the Price Code in fixing domestic air fares; the Authority is to continue to have regard to the Code but subject to its other duties, including its duty to have regard to the current Civil Aviation Policy Guidance (published in February 1972 as Cmnd. 4899). This will enable the Authority to continue to prescribe a common tariff for all airlines notwithstanding that the Code rules which apply to British Airways, as a nationalised industry, are different from those which apply to the private airlines.

The Price Code is contained in the Counter-Inflation (Price Code) Order 1974 – SI 1974/2113, which was laid before Parliament on 18 December. It is subject to Affirmative Resolution of both Houses. The Notification and Civil Aviation Act Orders were laid before Parliament on the same day and are subject to annulment by either House.

The new Price Code, Notification and Information Orders consolidate the existing principal and amending Orders and incorporate minor technical and drafting changes as well as the amendments referred to above. References above to paragraph numbers of the Code relate to the new Code, in which many of the provisions carry different numbers for the equivalent provisions in the previous Code.

Copies of the Orders are on sale at branches of HMSO and are available through any bookseller.

British Labour Statistics: Historical Abstracts 1886-1968

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Price Commission interventions during November

During November the Price Commission rejected 23 notifications of price increases from manufacturing and service companies in Category I and II. In another 19 cases the companies concerned withdrew their notifications of intended increases and in 56 the extent of the increase notified was reduced by the Commission. See lists below.

It is important to note that the oil price notifications shown as rejected in Category I of the list are *not* the current notifications, which were still under consideration, but previous notifications received in October and November and rejected during November on the ground that they did not conform with the Code and the Orders.

Since the beginning of Stage 3 the Commission has rejected a total of 1,259 notifications and reduced the extent of a further 781; 392 notifications were withdrawn.

During the month the Price Commission reached agreement with six distributors in Category II to secure price reductions amounting to £739,400 in order to eliminate excess gross or net profits as revealed in their periodic returns. Agreement was also reached with two Category II firms offering professional services to eliminate a sum of £64,000 resulting from price increases not consistent with increases in allowable costs.

Following their inspection of records kept by enterprises in Category III, the Commission's regional officers have secured agreement with 35 manufacturers, distributors and service companies in that Category to make price reductions of £312,000 in order to eliminate excess gross or net profits. In addition, the regional officers secured a total of 129 individual voluntary price reductions involving in many cases sugar and salt, following investigation of complaints about price increases.

Notes

In his statement on energy saving in the House of Commons on 9 December (*Hansard* – column 28 and *Trade and Industry*, 12 December, page 569), the Secretary of State for Energy was referring to the *current* oil company applications for price increases which at the time of writing are still under consideration by the Commission. These applications were submitted following the rejections recorded in the present list.

Following the receipt of pre-notifications submitted by Category I and II enterprises the Price Commission may intervene at any time during or after the 28 day period which must elapse before the increases can be implemented. Announcements about price increases which occur after the pre-notification period has expired, and where the Price Commission has not intervened, are the responsibility of the companies imposing the increases.

Rejections

Company	Product	% increase sought
Category I		
Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd.	Sterilised creams	7.06
ICI Ltd.	Methanol	30.60
Sterling Metals Ltd.	Aluminium products	10.36
† BP Oil Ltd.	Petroleum products	21.54
† Esso Petroleum Company Ltd.	Petroleum products	23.99
† Gulf Oil (GB) Ltd.	Petroleum products	34.00
† Mobil Oil Ltd.	Petroleum products	20.00
† Shell (UK) Ltd.	Petroleum products	21.00
† Total Oil (GB) Ltd.	Petroleum products	20.90
Category II		
Harold Andrews Sheepbridge Ltd.	Cylinder liners for internal combustion engines	9.00
Balfour Darwins Ltd.	Castings	12.50
Baron Meats Ltd.	Processed meat products	8.60-26.80
Cawoods Concrete Products Ltd.	Concrete blocks	Not specified
The Chemical and Insulating Company Ltd.	Armouring compound	8.70
	Hard setting composition	7.50
	Darlate	10.80
Entex Springs Ltd.	Springs	31.88
National Car Parks Ltd.	Car-parking tarrifs	3.08
Redler Conveyors Ltd.	Mechanical handling equipment	6.08
Robertsons (Bakers) Ltd.	Bread	1p on 28 oz. loaf ½p on 14 oz. loaf
Christian Salvesen (Transport) Ltd.	Transport of goods	18.60
Trist Valves Ltd.	Industrial valves and non-ferrous castings	2.00
Willeys of Exeter Ltd.	Iron and non-ferrous castings	7.19
Yate Foundry Ltd.	Iron castings	5.00

† These are *not* the current applications, which were still under consideration.

Withdrawals

Company	Product	% increase sought
Category I		
Beecham Foods Ltd.	Ribena	16.36
Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd.	Cereal puddings	5.68
	Packet tea and tea bags	12.54
Kraft Foods Ltd.	Catering processed cheese packs	9.92
Rubery Owen & Co. Ltd.	Automotive components	5.71
Category II		
Balfour Darwins Ltd.	Engineers cutting tools and hand tools	11.10
Chiltonian Ltd.	Biscuits	10.23
P. Garnett and Son Ltd.	Paper products	6.48
Grimsby Cold Storage Co. Ltd.	Provision of cold storage facilities	11.50
Leys Malleable Castings Co. Ltd.	Castings	4.81
Nu-Way Heating Plants Ltd.	Oil and gas burners	10.00
Rocol Ltd.	Lubricants, flake graphite sealants and aerosols	8.04
Ross Warmafoam Ltd.	Polystyrene goods	1.61
Tewkesbury Cold Stores Ltd.	Provision of cold storage facilities	8.85
3M UK Ltd.	Autoclave tapes	5.92
Viota Foods Ltd.	Cake and dessert mixes	7.15
Westland Engineers Ltd.	Garage and industrial doors, chalk boards and sash window balances	6.60
Wolverhampton Cold Stores Ltd.	Provision of cold storage facilities	12.30
Wood Bastow Holdings Ltd.	Ladies' underwear	Not specified

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Industrial and commercial property

Modifications

Company	Product	% increase sought	% reduction made
Category I			
Advance Cleaners and Launderers (London) Ltd.	Domestic laundering	10.47	1.04
BICC Ltd. and Connolly's (Blackley)	Enamel and textile covered wire and strip	9.96	0.45
Birds Eye Foods Ltd.	Frozen foods	3.11	0.07
BOCM Silcock Ltd.	Animal feedingstuffs	4.01	0.08
The British Aluminium Company Ltd.	Primary aluminium ingot and related ingot products	18.41	9.35
British Steel Corporation	Iron pipes	9.75	0.14
	Foundry castings	8.16	0.06
Deltaflow Ltd.	Water fittings	7.91	0.34
EMI Records Ltd.	Records and associated products	25.41	12.96
Gallaher Ltd.	Cigarettes, cigars, tobaccos	1.97	0.005
Girling Ltd.	Braking, actuation and suspension equipment	18.87	0.97
ICI Ltd.	Urea	13.80	0.40
IMI (Kynoch) Ltd.	Pressed components and assembled products	7.19	0.52
Imperial Tobacco Ltd.	Tobaccos	3.17	0.09
The Lace Web Spring Co. Ltd.	Spring interiors	3.96	1.39
Mars Ltd.	Confectionery	13.96	0.84
Nitrovit Ltd.	Animal feedingstuffs	3.62	0.94
F. A. Power Ltd.	Bright steel products	6.91	0.03
Purnell and Sons Ltd.	Contract printing	10.02	1.65
Rubery Owen-Rockwell Ltd.	Trailer axle and suspension	8.97	0.89
Satchwell Sunvic Ltd.	Temperature control equipment	9.32	0.95
Unigate Foods Ltd.	Evaporated milk	18.63	1.64
	Milk powders for industrial uses	9.50	0.40
Category II			
BBA Group Ltd.	Brakes, clutch liners and allied products	7.42	1.25
	Gaskets and joints	16.50	0.50
Bibby and Baron Ltd.	Paper and paper bags	6.38	0.21
British Filters Ltd.	Filters and filtration equipment	22.50	0.50
British Vita Co. Ltd.	Polyurethane foam block	11.77	3.33
BSA Guns Ltd.	Guns and accessories	15.10	1.86
Central Press Features Ltd.	All services	15.00	7.86
Crane Ltd.	Malleable and cast iron fittings	12.20	1.30
Domtar Paper Mills Ltd.	Fine papers	14.60	0.21
Glaxo Holdings Ltd.	Ostermilk, Complan, Casilan and Glucodin	15.43	0.66
Haddon Oldham Ltd.	Plant cells	6.00	0.85
Inment Ltd.	Industrial paints	8.50	0.50
Landon Kingsway Ltd.	Range of gas and oil burners, spares and fire-control equipment	24.40	0.40
Lebus Furniture Ltd.	Furniture	12.65	2.65
Metal Mouldings Ltd.	Aluminium extrusions, plastic fillers, suspended ceiling sections, component parts, miscellaneous section	13.00	3.50
Nicholas Laboratories Ltd.	Pharmaceuticals and toiletry products	18.70	2.40
Osborn Steels Ltd.	Stainless steel close tolerance bar	12.00	8.15
Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers Ltd.	Cover prices and advertisement rates	10.67	0.13
Reed and Smith Ltd.	Paper	10.39	4.27
James Robertson and Sons Preserve Manufacturers Ltd.	Jams, marmalades, lemon curd and Gollicrush	11.46	0.02
SBD Construction Product Ltd.	Nutex special	9.60	0.03
The Scottish Milk Marketing Board	Cheddar and Dunlop cheese	12.77[1]	0.28[2]
	Packet butter	13.47[1]	1.85
Smiths Food Group Ltd.	Savoury snacks	9.50	0.10
Stimur Ltd.	Corporate, safety and instructional markings and signs	15.22	0.36
Strathmore Springs Ltd.	Soft drinks	13.39	0.79
Trebor Sharps Ltd.	Confectionery	4.51	0.05
Triplex Foundries Group Ltd.	Grey iron castings	12.19	0.17
Viota Foods Ltd.	Breakfast cereals	2.35	0.02
The Wayne Keir Co. Ltd.	Commercial test equipment and spares	14.08	1.42
Wellman Incanite Foundries Ltd.	Ferrous castings	12.00	1.20
Westinghouse Brake and Signal Co. Ltd.	Brake equipment	10.50	1.15
Henry Wilson & Co. Ltd.	Domestic central heating boilers and spares	16.40	6.00
Woodhead Components Ltd.	Steel pressings	2.60	1.80

[1] This takes account of subsidy payment.
[2] Price increase as modified avoided by subsidy.

Oil company notifications

The Price Commission has reduced the intended price increases for petroleum products notified by eight oil companies. This follows examination by the Commission of the notifications submitted in November following the rejection of previous applications (see 'Price Commission interventions', page 692). Details are given below.

The figures quoted represent the averages of the increases for all products. Increases on individual products vary and in some instances there are variations in amounts as between one company and another. The increase in the price of petrol referred to by the Secretary of State for Energy in the House of Commons on 17 December is in line with the figures accepted by the Commission.

Company	% increase sought	(Averages) % reduction made
BP Oil Ltd.	26.83	3.45
Burmah-Castrol Co. Ltd.	24.80	5.65
Esso Petroleum Co. Ltd.	26.56	2.96
Gulf Oil (GB) Ltd.	39.00	7.54
Mobil Oil Co. Ltd.	25.00	2.22
Shell (UK) Ltd.	21.00	0.87
Texaco Ltd.	33.90	0.13
Total Oil (GB) Ltd.	23.10	2.20

The retail price of petrol will no longer be controlled by a Maximum Price Order, but garages, like other distributors, still have to observe the requirements of the Price Code. In particular they may not earn profits, gross or net, in excess of their reference levels under the Code. At the Government's request the Commission are engaged on a study of the margins which motor fuel distributors are at present earning.

Monthly Digest of Statistics

Prepared by the Central Statistical Office in collaboration with the Statistics Division of Government Departments, this digest is designed to provide industrialists and business executives with invaluable statistics relating to the economic situation in the United Kingdom. It contains a regular series of detailed statistics on a wide range of subjects which include the following: *Labour, Fuel and Power, External Trade, Wages and Prices, Industrial Production, Industrial Materials, Finance.*

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Clearance of merger proposals

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection has decided, on the information at present before her, not to refer the following proposed mergers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973:

1 Sears Holdings and Galliford Estates Ltd.
2 Associated Food Holdings Ltd./Thomas Linnel & Sons Ltd.
3 Ennia NV/Triumph Insurance Co. Ltd.

Designs (Amendment) No. 2 Rules published

The Designs (Amendment) No. 2. Rules 1974, which were published on 12 December 1974 and come into operation on 13 January 1975, further amend the Designs Rules 1949 so as to permit documents to be lodged under the Registered Designs Act 1949 or the Rules upon international A4 size paper as well as foolscap and to express certain measurements in the metric as well as the imperial scale. The new Rules make no other changes.

Copies of the new Rules (SI 1974/2043) may be obtained from the Patent Office, Orpington, Kent BR5 3RD, from the Sale Counter, Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, London WC2A 1AY and from HM Stationery Office at the usual addresses, price 4p (by post 7½p).

A library for exporters

Foreign trade statistics and other economic statistics from almost every country in the world are available for reference in the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library at Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU. A modern well-equipped library of over 85,000 volumes, it has a reading room for visitors, and provides a document-copying service. There are trade directories covering 150 countries, and an expanding collection of trade catalogues of overseas manufacturers. The library opens from 9 to 5.30, Mondays to Fridays (Tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 368 or Telex No. 886143).

Tony Benn announces British Leyland advisory team

Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, announced on 18 December the membership of the team led by Sir Don Ryder to advise the Government on British Leyland's situation and prospects.

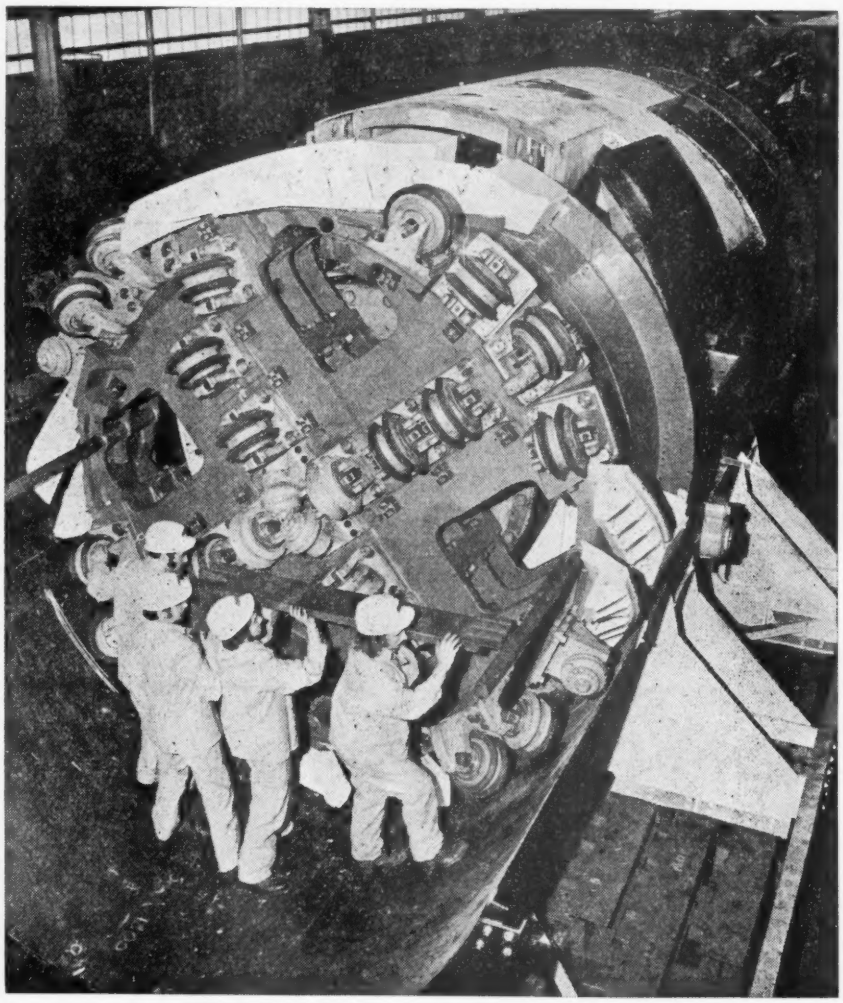
Speaking in a House of Commons Debate on a motion to enable the Secretary of State to guarantee BLMC's borrowings, he said that the team would be:

Sir Don Ryder, Chairman.
Mr. R. A. Clark, Deputy chairman, Hill Samuel and Chairman Industrial Development Advisory Board.
Mr. Stanley Gillen, Formerly chairman and chief executive officer Ford of Europe Inc.
Mr. F. S. McWhirter, Peat, Marwick Mitchell & Co.
Mr. H. Urwin, Transport and General Workers Union and Industrial Development Advisory Board Member.

The team's remit, he said, is to conduct, in consultation with the Corporation and the trades unions, an overall assessment of BLMC's present situation and future prospects, covering corporate strategy, investment, markets, organisation, employment, productivity, management/labour relations, profitability and finance; and to report to the Government.

The Industrial Development Advisory Board has statutory responsibilities under the Industry Act of 1972 which is administered by the Department of Industry.

It is hoped that the Advisory Team will report to the Secretary of State in the spring.



Tunnelling machine, valued at £500,000 which will enable miners to drive, at high speed, through an undersea fault in the north-east coalfield into 50 million tons of coking coal reserves earmarked for the new steelworks at Redcar. Laser beams will keep the 90-ton machine on the exact line and gradient when tunnelling operations start in January. The machine was made by Thyssen (GB) Ltd. at Llanelli, South Wales. A £5½ million project has been announced to extend workings into a previously unknown section of Northumberland's undersea coalfield.

Minister leads waste paper fact-finding visit to Holland

Michael Meacher, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Industry, led a party from his Advisory Group on Waste Paper Collection and Recycling on a fact-finding visit to the Netherlands at the end of last week.

At present about 27 per cent of the total paper and board used in the United Kingdom is salvaged but Holland, together with West Germany and Japan, exceed this amount. The problems involved in bettering the position are complex and the Advisory Group is not yet in a position to make positive recommendations but hopes to issue at least an interim report next spring.

Preliminary studies indicate that in this country the major potential for increasing salvage lies in the recovery of waste paper collected from householders and disposed of by local authorities. (This source currently supplies only about 0.3 million tonnes out of 2.1 million tonnes recycled each year.) Although the demand for waste paper is increasing in the long term, one of the problems is the short-term fluctuations in demand affecting the paper industry. This instability deters local authorities from investing ratepayers' money in recovery projects which may turn out to operate at a loss while the paper industry also needs assured supplies, particularly in order to justify heavy capital outlay on plant specifically designed to process more waste paper.

It is against this background and their research into the best means of overcoming these marketing problems that Mr. Meacher and members of the Advisory Group have been visiting Holland. While there they spoke to representatives of the Dutch local authorities, waste paper merchants and disposal organisations and members of the paper and board industry.

Before leaving Mr. Meacher attended the first meeting of the new Waste Management Advisory Committee of which he is joint chairman with Mr. Gordon Oakes, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of the Environment.

The Advisory Group on Waste Paper Collection and Recycling was set up under Mr. Meacher's chairmanship last summer. Members include top industrialists from the paper and board manufacturing industry, local authority representatives, a trade unionist and officials from both the Department of Industry and the Department of the Environment.

Its terms of reference are to advise the Government on measures to increase recycling of waste paper in the United Kingdom and in particular to consider and advise on:

the future waste paper requirements, nationally or industrially, of the paper and board industry;

the extent to which those future requirements can be met from current sources of supply; the degree to which additional collections through local authorities and/or other organisations should be encouraged; and action which might be taken to achieve this aim;

ways by which cyclical variations in demand of substance might be reconciled with the need for continuity of recovery;

the national financial, economic and environmental effects which might accrue from increased recycling;

the potential for increased exports in the medium and long term;

the need for further R & D, particularly in the field of handling, sorting and processing plant;

the benefits of international collaboration in this field.

Pictured at the first meeting of the Waste Management Advisory Council, held in London last week, are the joint chairmen, Gordon Oakes (right) and Michael Meacher, respective Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State for the Departments of the Environment and of Industry.

Waste Management Advisory Council appointed

Membership of the Waste Management Advisory Council was announced on 16 December by Gordon Oakes, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Environment. The Council held its first meeting on 18 December.

In a written answer to a Parliamentary question from Mrs. Miller (Redbridge, Ilford N.) Mr. Oakes stated:

'The Waste Management Advisory Council will be chaired jointly by Ministers of the Department of the Environment and the Department of Industry, and I have great pleasure in announcing that the following have so far agreed to serve:

Dr. A. Burges, Vice-chancellor, The New University of Ulster.

The Rt. Hon. The Lord Darling of Hillsborough, former president, National Industrial Materials Recovery Association.

Sir William Dugdale, member, National Water Council; chairman, Severn-Trent Water Authority.

Mr. P. Ellis, retired deputy chairman, Mardon Packaging.

Mr. D. F. Forrester, director of cleansing, Corporation of Glasgow.

Mr. H. S. Gilbert, chairman, Planning and Land Economy Committee of Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors.

Mrs. J. Graham, chairman of the Housewives Trust.

Mr. V. C. Hender, managing director, United Glass Ltd.

Mr. A. Hogg, former divisional officer, Iron and Steel Trades Confederation.

Dr. A. Houghton, chairman, Mars Ltd.

Mr. D. B. Huffam, Vice-president, Metal Box Company Ltd.

Professor D. E. Hughes, Professor of microbiology, University College, Cardiff.

Miss A. Lees, chief planning officer, Merseyside Metropolitan County Council.

Baillie T. McBrearty, chairman of cleansing committee, Paisley Town Council.

Mr. C. E. M. Morris, British Steel Corporation.

Sir Daniel Pettit, chairman, National Freight Corporation.

Councillor C. de Peyer, Dacorum District Council, Herts.

Professor C. K. Rowley, Professor of economics, University of Newcastle upon Tyne.

Mr. J. Skitt, County waste disposal engineer, Staffordshire County Council.

Councillor D. Sleightholme, Tyne and Wear Metropolitan County Council.

Mr. S. Sternberg, past president, British Secondary Metals Association.

Mr. J. A. Wellings, chairman and managing director, The George Cohen 600 Group Ltd.

Baroness White, member, Council for the Preservation of Rural England; member, Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution.

Mr. N. Willis, assistant general secretary, TUC.

Mr. A. L. Wright, secretary and solicitor, Central Electricity Generating Board.'

The following appointments were also announced:

Dr. J. R. Barrett, director, Monsanto Chemicals Ltd.

Dr. R. L. P. Berry, chairman and managing director, ALCOA of Great Britain Ltd.

Professor G. Goodman, Professor of applied biology, Chelsea College of Technology.

The Ministers who will chair the Waste Management Advisory Council are Gordon Oakes, and Michael Meacher, Parliamentary Under Secretary, Department of Industry.

The Council's terms of reference are:

'To keep under review the development of waste management policies in the United Kingdom having regard to the need to secure the best use of resources, and the safe and efficient disposal of wastes; to give particular consideration to ways of reclaiming materials from waste, recycling techniques, the inter-relationship of waste utilisation and waste disposal, and the reduction or transformation of waste arisings; to consider the technical, economic, administrative and legal problems involved; to consider the programme of research and development; and to make recommendations'.

Proposals to establish a Waste Management Advisory Council were first announced by the Secretary of State for the Environment on 17 June during the Second Reading Debate of the Control of Pollution Bill in the House of Commons. The Government Green Paper 'War on Waste', published on 11 September, underlined the role the Council would be expected to play in co-ordinating work in the field of reclamation.

Minister meets paper industry representatives

Michael Meacher, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Industry, met representatives of the British Paper and Board Industry Federation on 18 December, at their request, to discuss current difficulties in the waste paper market.

The paper industry representatives expressed concern about the inability of the mills to increase their stocks above their already high levels. They feared that as a result, voluntary collectors in particular, who have recently increased their efforts would be discouraged and longer-term requirements would be jeopardised.

Mr. Meacher said the Government appreciated the difficulties facing the industry. However, until new legislation was enacted the Government's powers to assist any section of industry were limited to those in the Industry Act 1972. Mr. Meacher said the Department would be prepared to consider any case for financial assistance which met the requirements of the Act.

In the longer term the Advisory Group on Waste Paper Recycling set up by the Government under Mr. Meacher's chairmanship earlier this year was actively seeking solutions to the difficulties posed by the traditionally volatile market conditions and other complex problems of the industry in order to secure a co-ordinated increase in the collection and usage of waste paper.

Lord Beswick looks at prospects for engineering industry

Suggestions for more effective investment in the engineering industry were made by Lord Beswick, Minister of State, Department of Industry, speaking to the British Mechanical Engineering Confederation on 18 December. Lord Beswick, who had pointed out earlier that our level of investment in industry was not only lower but was less effective than many of our competitors, said: 'We must ensure in the future that individual investment decisions are not only sensible in themselves but the results are more likely to be realised because the overall national decisions make more likely the realisation of individual expectations. And similarly it is possible that individual decisions will benefit if they take fully into account Government intentions. Early next year the Government will bring before Parliament a Bill to provide us with the power to implement our industrial policies which will have a significant bearing on all this.

'The legislation will provide the framework but we are anxious that the thinking and intent behind the proposals shall be understood by management and shop floor alike.'

Lord Beswick described how under the Industry Bill proposals, the Government would collaborate directly with companies and would establish a system of Planning Agreements to achieve a closer framework of co-operation between Government, major companies and those who work in them.

'Through discussions, through the greater understanding and greater commitment that consultations bring, through the improved policies at national, regional, and company level, that will result and through Government financial help when appropriate, the aim will be to match industry's intentions more closely to the nation's needs,' he said. 'We shall not seek to interfere in day-to-day management.' Planning agreements will be concerned only with strategic issues for example, investment, employment and exports. They will be voluntary arrangements, because they would operate most effectively by consent.

'The other main part of our industrial policy, is the National Enterprise Board,' said Lord Beswick. 'Our NEB will be a new form of public enterprise for us. It will complement planning agreements and provide a source of new investment capital for manufacturing industry.

'The NEB will give special emphasis to projects which create jobs in the areas of greatest need and to investment which promotes the more rapid development of our new offshore oil supply industry. Projects with a high export potential will also be given high priority.

'The NEB will take on and add to many of the activities of the old Industrial Reorganisation Corporation. It will promote the reorganisation of industries where this would lead to an increase in efficiency and profitability. It will ensure that public funds are used to the best effect by acting as a channel for selective assistance from my Department under the Industry Act.

'The NEB will also act as a State Holding Company, managing existing State shareholdings and acquiring companies by agreement and after obtaining Government approval.

'After the latest set of trade figures last week there can be no doubting the seriousness of our economic position. And especially the position immediately ahead.'

Trade with EEC – Mr. Shore writes to Mr. Heath

Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, has released the text of a letter he sent on 13 December to Edward Heath, Leader of the Opposition, following a comment by Mr. Heath in the House of Commons on 12 December.

Mr. Shore wrote: 'You implied in the House of Commons yesterday that statements I have made about trade with the European Economic Community are in no way substantiated by the analysis of Department of Trade statisticians which appeared in the departmental publication *Trade and Industry* at the end of October.

'You are, I am afraid, mistaken.

'I am therefore enclosing a copy of the article to which I think you were referring, which was published in *Trade and Industry* on 31 October. It analyses the development of trade with the other eight members of the EEC since 1970 and records that the visible trade deficit on a balance of payments basis of £13 million in 1971 had widened to £1,138 million by 1973, and was running at an annual rate of £1,668 million in the first six months of 1974. On a crude trade basis the deficit figures read £256 million in 1971, £1,167 million in 1973 and £1,951 million at an annual rate in the first half of 1974. I regret to say that the figures have not improved since.

'All the figures I have used about our trade

with the EEC are based upon official and public sources. That will continue to be my practice.

'I am releasing this letter to the Press."

The article referred to appeared in the October issue of *European Community Commentary*, a supplement to ***Trade and Industry***, page 3.

CAA revokes air travel organiser's licence

The Civil Aviation Authority has revoked the air travel organiser's licence held by Ricefine Ltd., trading as Interjet Travel Consultants – ATOL 030A. The Authority is not satisfied that the company's financial arrangements are adequate for discharging its obligations under the terms of the licence.

Carriage by sea of arsine

Amendment number two of the second edition of the Report of the Department of Trade Standing Advisory Committee on the Carriage of Dangerous Goods in Ships (the Blue Book) has been published by HM Stationery Office (price 4p net).

The amendment contains detailed arrangements with respect to the carriage by sea of arsine. In this amendment arsine has been provisionally classified under Class 2(b) Poisonous Gases. Arsine should not be conveyed by sea except, as specifically approved by the Department of Trade.

Fines doubled for smoking offences in ships

Fines for smoking in restricted parts of ships are doubled – from £10 to £20 – under new regulations published by the Department of Trade.

The fines are the maximum sums which masters of ships may impose on seamen who are found guilty of the particular disciplinary offences of smoking, using naked lights or unapproved torches in any part of a ship which is subject to a special risk of fire or explosion.

More serious misconduct, especially if it endangers the ship or people aboard, can be dealt with through the Courts, where much higher penalties can be imposed.

The new regulations – the Merchant Shipping (Disciplinary Offences) (Amendment) Regulations (published by HMSO as SI 1974/2047, price 4p net) – have been made under powers provided by Section 19 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1974.

Other offences, and the need for statutory penalties to deal with them, are now being considered by separate working parties set up by the Department to study discipline in the Merchant Navy and the fishing industry.

DPCP to be responsible for Nationalised Industry Consumer Councils

Certain responsibilities for the Nationalised Industry Consumer Councils will be taken over by the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection from 1 February 1975, Alan Williams, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said on 16 December in the House of Commons.

In reply to a question from Mr. John Golding (Newcastle-under-Lyme), Mr. Williams said: 'As announced in the White Paper on the National Consumers' Agency, we shall be assuming certain responsibilities in relation to the nationalised industry consumer councils, other than the Scottish electricity consultative councils. This transfer will take place on 1 February 1975. It will increase the Gas Consumers' Councils' independence of the industry, as will the provision, if Parliament approves, for financing the Councils directly from Government funds.'

Notes

The Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection will appoint the chairmen and members of the Consumer Councils for the Coal, Gas, Electricity and Transport industries and the Post Office. These appointments have up to now been made by the Secretaries of State for Energy, the Environment and Industry. The Government also hopes to introduce legislation shortly to provide for the gas and electricity Councils to be financed from Government funds like the other Councils.

The intention of transferring these responsibilities to DPCP was stated in the White Paper (Cmnd 5726) presented to Parliament in September. The White Paper also stated the Government's intention that the National Consumers' Agency, when established, should review the present arrangements for consumer representation in the nationalised industries, as part of the Government's policy of making the industries more responsive to the consumer's needs.

The Councils are statutory bodies, whose members are all appointed by Ministers, set up to protect the interests of nationalised industry consumers. They are: the Domestic Coal Consumers' Council, the National Gas Consumers' Council and 12 Regional Gas Consumers' Councils, 14 Electricity Consultative Councils, the Central Transport Consultative Committee and 11 Regional Transport Users' Consultative Committees and the Post Office Users' National Council and Post Office Users' Councils for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. They deal with inquiries and complaints from customers and can, make representations on the consumers' behalf to the industries and to the Government.

Appointments to the Councils will be made after consulting the sponsoring Department Ministers and with the advice of the NCA, except in the case of the Scottish Electricity Consultative Councils, which will continue to be made, under the Electricity Act 1957, by the Secretary of State for Scotland.

References to the Councils will be made

John Methven, Director General of Fair Trading, took part in a 'Fair Deal for the Shopper' forum staged by the Kent Evening Post at Chatham recently. Mr. Methven, who is seen on the far left of the picture, said that a consultative document on '2p and 3p off' offers would be published early in the New Year. 'We have been looking not only at flash pack offers,' he said 'but also at adverts which say "Goods are worth £75, our price £50".'

jointly by Ministers in both Departments, who will also both receive the Councils' representations and reports. Any consequent directions to the industry will be made by the Minister responsible for the industry after consultation with DPCP about the decision.

New safety rules for smaller fishing vessels

New safety rules to extend the radio coverage of smaller fishing vessels have been introduced by Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, and will come into force on 1 January 1975.

Under the new Rules all fishing vessels of 12 m. (40 ft.) or more in length must:

1 be fitted with a medium frequency radiotelephone transmitter and receiver (and also with reserve equipment for vessels of 24.4 m., the metric equivalent of 80 ft., and over) and a separate watchkeeping receiver;

2 fit radiotelegraph equipment and carry a qualified radiotelegraph operator when sailing outside certain specified areas (the areas stretch from the northern coast of France to the northern coast of Norway including Iceland);

3 maintain a continuous listening watch when at sea on the radiotelephone distress frequency of 2181 kHz.

A new publication, Instructions to Surveyors (Fishing Vessel Radio Installation) which gives further information about the radio installations required by the Rules, has been prepared by the Department of Trade.

The new rules will be known as the Merchant Shipping (Radio) (Fishing Vessels) Rules 1974 (SI 1975/1919). They supersede the Merchant Shipping (Radio) (Fishing Boats) Rules 1965 (SI 1965/1108) which only applied to fishing vessels of 140 ft. and over. The new Rules and the new publication are available from HMSO, price 18p (21½p by post).

Manpower implications of offshore oil and gas

The Manpower Services Commission has released a report commissioned on the manpower implications associated with the discovery and exploitation of offshore oil and gas.

The main conclusions of the study are:

the situation over the next few years is one of labour shortage of varying degrees of severity in virtually all the occupations associated with the exploitation of offshore gas and oil.

in particular immediate and continuing shortages of geologists, petroleum engineers, drillers and divers are identified.

in the Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Construction (MEEC) sector a short-fall of some 16,000 skilled men has been estimated by mid-1976, particularly welders, platers, rigger/erectors, steel fixers and benders.

beyond the next 18 months, though forecasts are necessarily tentative, only a slight fall-off in MEEC manpower demands is expected before 1980.

a particular area of uncertainty is platform construction. A high level of demand can be expected into the 1980s but decisions have still to be taken on the type of platform. A move to concrete and hybrid structures in place of steel jackets would have important manpower implications.

in view of the swiftly changing situation the MSC should take steps to monitor manpower and training needs regularly.

The report was commissioned by the MSC from two economists. Mr. David Begg of Nuffield College undertook the initial study in the summer which has since been updated, revised and expanded by John Fyfe of the MSC Secretariat. The views expressed are their own.

The Manpower Services Commission was set up on 1 January 1974 under the Employment and Training Act 1973. It is responsible for the public employment and training services hitherto provided by the Department of Employment. The employment services are organised through the Employment Service Agency which was formally established on 1 October, and the training services through the Training Services Agency which was formally set up on 1 April.

The Commission is responsible for the planning and budgets of the Agencies and for advising the Secretary of State for Employment on manpower matters. This year it has a budget of about £115 million and this will rise under present plans to over £170 million by 1977/78. The two Agencies employ about 19,000 staff in over 1,000 separate establishments.

Review Committee for Queen's Award to Industry named

The Prime Minister announced in the House of Commons on 19 December the names of the committee which, under the chairmanship of the Duke of Edinburgh, is to undertake a review of the Queen's Award to Industry scheme this winter.

The purpose of the review is to consider any changes which experience has shown to be desirable and any new ideas for the Award which can be recommended to Her Majesty the Queen.

The following have accepted invitations to serve on the Review Committee: Mr. J. Lindsay Alexander, chairman of Ocean Transport and Trading Ltd., and president of the Chamber of Shipping; Sir Douglas Allen, head of the Home Civil Service and chairman of the Advisory Committee which advises the Prime Minister in the selection of candidates for recommendation for the Award to the Queen; Lord Briginshaw, general secretary of the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel and a member of the TUC General Council; Mr. M. O. Edwards, chairman of the Chloride Group Ltd; Mr. W. Ernest Haynes, a former president (1964-69) of the Bakers' Union and member (1964-69) of the TUC General Council and member of the Queen's Award Advisory Committee; Sir Emmanuel Kaye, chairman and governing director of Lansing Bagnall Ltd., Sir Cyril H. Kleinwort, chairman of Kleinwort, Benson, Longdale Ltd., chairman of the Committee on Invisible Exports and member of the Queen's Award Advisory Committee; Sir Anthony Part, Permanent Secretary of the Department of Industry and a member of the Queen's Award Advisory Committee; Sir John Partridge, chairman of the Imperial Group Ltd., and former president (1970-72) of the CBI; Lord Thorneycroft, chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, chairman of Pye Holdings Ltd., and of Pirelli General Ltd., and a member of the Queen's Award Advisory Committee, and Sir Peter Thornton, Permanent Secretary of the Department of Trade.

Kwik Save Discount Group Limited

The report of inspectors appointed to investigate dealings in the shares of Kwik Save Discount Group Ltd. was published on 19 December.

The inspectors, Mr. D. S. Mangat and Mr. J. H. Dickman, were appointed on 2 March 1973 under the provisions of Section 32 of the Companies Act, 1967 to determine whether contraventions of Sections 25 and 27 of the Companies Act, 1967, had occurred in relation to certain share dealings.

Their report (HMSO, price 30p net) was submitted in June 1974.

Advertising in 'Trade and Industry'

Inquiries about advertising in *Trade and Industry* should be addressed to HMSO, Room C70, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London EC1P 1BN. (Tel. 01-248 9876, ext. 6147).

Publications

The British public company: its role, responsibilities and accountability. British Institute of Management Occasional Paper, new series OPN 12. (60 pages. Available from the BIM, Management House, Parker Street, London WC2B 5PT. £1.50 to non-collective subscribers. ISBN 0 85946 026 6). This study is based on a series of papers given at a two-day BIM conference held in November 1973. The papers have been adapted and edited for publication and include selections from the questions and answers arising from the open discussion periods. Following an introductory section by the chairman of the conference, Sir Val Duncan, there is a paper by Lord Limerick, who at the time of the conference was a minister at the Department of Trade and Industry, on the Conservative Government's White Paper on company law reform published in July 1973 (Cmnd. 5391). There follow papers by Lord Watkinson on the role of shareholders, Lord Shawcross on the responsibility of the City, Alan Fisher on the case for employee participation, and Sir Frederick Catherwood on professional management. Finally there are papers by Jo Grimond on the social role of British business, and by Sir Reay Geddes on the application of the principles of corporate conduct. The publication of these papers, and of the discussion on them, forms a useful contribution to the current debate on the future of the public company in this country.

Devaluation and Pricing Decisions: a case study approach by D. C. Hague, WEF Oakeshott and A. A. Strain (388 pages. Published for the Centre for Business Research, University of Manchester by Allen & Unwin. £6.35. ISBN 0 04 658211 8) The purpose of this book is to look in detail at the decisions that 19 individual British firms took after the 1967 devaluation. The authors set out to examine how firms responded to this major change and the subsequent alterations in the economic environment. The trouble with much empirical research in economics, which this study both highlights and attempts to resolve, is the difficulty of measuring the reactions of two or more firms to identical changes in the economic influences affecting them. In particular this study investigates how far firms anticipated devaluation. It also considers their objectives at the time and whether they thought that changes in these objectives, or in their pricing and marketing policies, were necessary in order to take advantage of new opportunities for exporting and for import-substitution. The study consists of two parts; the first part which forms the analytical section comprises the following chapters – Introduction; the Firm and Devaluation; Export Objectives; Market Factors; Internal Information; the Elements in a Devaluation Decision; the Decisions; the Findings; Economic Theory and our Findings (ie the author's findings); and Summary and Conclusions. Part two consists of eighteen case studies derived from the analysis of real firms, the identities of which have been disguised for obvious reasons. All the firms studied were manufacturing businesses. Half of them (or their parent companies) were members of the Centre for Business Research, whilst the remainder were selected in the hope that the total sample would cover a reasonably representative selection. Two qualifications should be noted in regard to the work as a whole: 'devaluation' signifies the 1967 15 per cent and, except for a single passing reference, does not involve examination of the intricacies of the more recent 'floating' de facto devaluation of the year 1972. The authors also stress the fact that, in order to keep the analysis within reasonable limits, the interrelationships between the home and export markets have been excluded – a factor which would have to be considered in any examination of an area like the motor industry.

The Impact of Multinational Corporations on Development and on International Relations. United Nations. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (162 pages. Available from HMSO. £4.40. ISBN 0 11 903393 3.) The Economic and Social Council in Resolution 1721 (LIII) adopted unanimously on 2 July 1972, requested the Secretary-General to appoint a group of eminent persons . . . to study the role of multinational corporations and their impact on the process of development, expecially that of the developing countries, and also the implications of the multinationals for international relations. Further, the group was to formulate conclusions which would assist Governments in the making of their sovereign decisions regarding national policy, and, finally, to submit recommendations for appropriate international action. The present report is in response to the above resolution and it has been prepared in three parts.

In part one the introduction briefly sets out the role and importance of multinational corporations and discusses the unease which some of their activities may arouse. This is followed by an examination of the world perspective in which multinationals should be viewed and their role in the development process. Finally, in this section, attention is given to the complex of problems which may arise between nation states and multinational corporations. The first chapter evaluates and analyses the specific problems arising from the characteristics peculiar to multinationals' activities with particular reference to their impact on developing countries. Remedies which could be taken by individual Governments or regional groupings are then proposed which could result in a more equitable socio-economic relationship. Chapter two examines the impact of multinational corporations on international relations, with particular reference to the question of political intervention by the corporations and the subsequent ways in which their activities can lead to confrontations and conflicts of jurisdiction between Governments. Chapter three is devoted to the international action and machinery that the group believes is an indispensible corollary to national and regional action.

In Part two, the issue of control and ownership, which is a fundamental factor in the decision-making process, is thoroughly analysed. Then there follows an examination of the implications for finance, technology, employment and labour, which, together, comprise the main elements of the package introduced into a host country by the multinationals. Next follows a brief discussion of the activities of multinational corporations in relation to consumer protection, together with topics such as competition and market structure, transfer pricing and taxation. The last chapter deals with information disclosure and evaluation, which are central to many of the questions discussed earlier. Part three contains comments by individual members of the group, some dissenting from particular points within the report and others adding their own emphasis to areas they consider merit greater attention. All these individual contributions impart a sharpness to what otherwise might have resulted in a rather ponderous study and for this reason they are well worth close scrutiny.

Contract Planning and Organisation. United Nations Industrial Development Organisation. (63 pages. Available from HMSO, £1.09. ISBN 0 11 903366 6). The successful implementation of investment projects in developing countries presents many problems and the object of this manual is to assist those concerned in tackling some of the major impediments to development by focusing attention on the areas of planning and control. The essence of this work is in its discussion of the relationship between projects and contracts. It examines, for example, whether a project should be the subject of one contract or sub-divided into several; the appropriate assumption of responsibility for design and construction, and, a crucial point, the system by which contracts should be monitored and controlled. Other chapters cover the initiation and planning of contracts, methods of contract-placing, the preparation of an overall programme, requirements for maintenance, operation and spare parts, with a concluding section on general organisation and procedure. The study was prepared by a United Kingdom consultant, P. D. V. Marsh, in co-operation with UNIDO and should be of interest both to managers, administrators and engineers overseas as well as those engaged in contract planning in the UK itself.

Parliament

Thursday, 12 December

Standardisation of glass containers

Mr. David Lane (Cambridge) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection whether she would seek the standardisation of glass containers, with a view to encouraging their re-use.

In reply, Mr. Maclennan said that, as already announced, the Waste Management Advisory Council was being set up to examine ways of promoting the reclamation of waste. The standardisation of containers would be the subject of one of its first tasks.

Friday, 13 December

Acrylic yarn imports

Mr. Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) wanted to know of the Secretary of State for Industry, what representations he has received from the Worsted Spinners Federation Ltd. about the mass importation of cut-price acrylic yarns from the Far East and what reply he had sent.

Mr. Meacher answered that the Worsted Spinners Federation had discussed the matter with officials of his Department. He understood that they were about to put a detailed case for restraining these imports to the Secretary of State for Trade and it would be given urgent consideration.

Computers for nationalised industries

Mr. Norman Lamont (Kingston upon Thames) asked the Secretary of State for Industry, in view of his answer on 26 November that nationalised industries had been asked to follow a similar policy to that of central Government when purchasing large computer systems, whether nationalised industries remained free to purchase the computer system most suitable for their needs, whatever its country of origin, unless a directive was issued to the contrary.

Mr. Meacher replied: 'Nationalised industries have since 1971 been asked to follow, in their computer purchases, a similar policy to that of central Government. This provides that large computers, defined as 1 Atlas power or greater, are purchased from ICL subject to satisfactory price, performance and delivery.'

Trade with EEC countries

Mr. Peter Blaker (Blackpool South) inquired what proportion of the deterioration in the UK's overall visible trade deficit between 1970 and 1973 and between the first halves of 1973 and 1974, respectively, was accounted for by trade with the other eight members of the EEC.

Mr. Deakins said it was 52 per cent and 21 per cent respectively; the latter figure was influenced by the increase in the oil deficit.

Labour Party Nominees Ltd.

Mr. Geoffrey Finsberg (Hampstead) requested details of the current directors of the Labour Party Nominees Ltd. (company registration 966540); what resignations had taken place since 1 January 1974; on what dates had they occurred; and on what dates they were registered at Companies House.

Mr. Shore answered: 'According to the statutory returns on file the current directors are Leonard James Callaghan, Herbert Richard Nicholas, John Gwynfryn Morgan, Frank Lane, Leonard Forden, Douglas Richards, Harold Edward Hickling, Sidney Weighell, Alexander Harper Kitson. A notice dated 13 June 1974 of the resignations of A. Cunningham, J. Diamond and J. Gormley was filed on 18 June 1974 but no dates of resignation were given. The company has been asked to provide them.'

Food and fertiliser imports

Mr. John Spence (Thirsk and Malton) wanted to know what proportion imports of food were of total imports in each of the last 10 years.

Replying, Mr. Deakins gave the following percentages by value: 1964, 27.5; 1965, 26.5; 1966, 26.6; 1967, 24.2; 1968, 20.9; 1969, 20.3; 1970, 19.9; 1971, 19.3; 1972, 18.2 and 1973, 16.6 per cent. Food has been defined as Section 0 less Division 00 (Live Animals) in the overseas trade statistics.

Mr. Spence also asked what proportion imports of fertilisers and other essential agricultural raw materials were of total UK imports in each of the last 10 years.

Mr. Deakins said that commodities identifiable as principally for agricultural purposes (fertilisers, animal feeding stuffs, disinfectants, insecticides, fungicides, weedkillers, etc.) accounted for the following percentages by value: 1964, 1.7; 1965, 1.9; 1966, 1.7; 1967, 1.7; 1968, 1.6; 1969, 1.5; 1970, 1.4; 1971, 1.3; 1972, 1.2 and 1973, 1.4 per cent.

Retail trade conversion to metric

Mr. James Craigen (Glasgow, Maryhill) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection when it was hoped to complete the changeover in the retail industry from imperial to metric measures, and if she was satisfied with the current rate of progress.

Mr. Williams replied: 'There are no powers to require the retail sector to change, but the voluntary change in manufacturing industries is bringing more and more metric consumer goods into the shops. Under the Weights and Measures Act some goods may only be sold in prescribed imperial quantities; some Orders have been made, and others are planned, authorising metric quantities in addition. Consultations with industry and consumer interests are continuing to determine the appropriate pace for change.'

Price Code representations

Mr. Michael Morris (Northampton South) wanted to know what representations the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection had received to reterm the existing paragraph 34 of the Review of the Price Code, Consultative Document, Command Paper No. 5779, as an alternative option to the proposed paragraph 34; and whether she had as yet made any decision, or whether the matter was still open for discussion.

Mrs. Williams answered: 'I have received representations to this effect from the CBI and from many organisations and firms. The period for consultation on Cmnd. 5779 ended on 27 November. My decision will be reflected in the Order containing the new Price Code, which I shall shortly lay before the House.' (*See also page 690*).

Ministers at the Department of Industry

Secretary of State for Industry: Anthony Wedgwood Benn
Ministers of State: Eric Heffer
Lord Beswick
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Gregor MacKenzie
Michael Meacher

Ministers at the Department of Trade

Secretary of State for Trade: Peter Shore
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Eric Deakins
Stanley Clinton Davis

Ministers at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection: Shirley Williams
Minister of State: Alan Williams
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

Gas and electricity deficits

Mr. Peter Hardy (Rother Valley) asked the Secretary of State for Energy: 'What steps the Government intends to take to meet the deficits of the gas and electricity industries once the compensation provided for under the Statutory Corporations (Financial Provisions) Act 1974 is exhausted; and how it will alleviate the cash flow problems of the industries meanwhile.'

Mr. Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Energy, replied: 'The Government intends to introduce legislation to amend the Statutory Corporations (Financial Provisions) Act 1974. The Bill will include suitable provisions to enable the industries to meet their interim short term financial requirements pending the final settlement of compensation. In the meantime, arrangements have been made with my Rt. Hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer which will permit the industries to borrow from the National Loans Fund by way of short term bridging finance at normal interest rates for short term loans. These loans will be repayable on the date when compensation payments are made.'

ZETA

A statement about the intended use of ZETA for energy purposes was requested by Mr. Michael McNair-Wilson (Newbury).

Mr. Alex Eadie, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Energy, replied: 'The experimental facility ZETA itself was superseded a few years ago in the course of continuing research by the UKAEA into thermonuclear fusion, which is now within the framework of an EEC programme. This programme shows steady progress: fusion is potentially an important source of energy in the long term, but it is not generally expected that it will contribute to meeting energy needs before the end of this century.'

Monday, 16 December

Price Code

Mr. David Steel (Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection: 'Whether the study she is undertaking of penalties which might be imposed on employers who are in breach of guidelines laid down in the social contract will extend to cover the salaries paid to chief officers of local authorities?'

'Action through the Price Code, which I am studying, can influence employers only so far as their prices or charges are controlled under the Code,' Mrs. Williams replied. 'Only the trading services of local authorities, are so controlled.'

Mrs. Williams was also asked by Mr. Tim Renton (Mid-Sussex) what form her invitation took, to the CBI, to become participants in the social contract in relation to the Price Code.

She answered: 'I wrote to the CBI on 12 November inviting their views on all aspects of the Consultative Document on the Review of the Price Code, and I discussed it with them on 26 November.'

Price controls

Mr. Michael Alison (Barkeston Ash) asked what monitoring of the effect on the cash flow position of smaller food manufacturing companies caused by price controls is undertaken by the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection and about the number of redundancies or closures occurring in this context.

Mrs. Williams answered: 'I keep in close touch with my Rt. Hon. Friends the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Secretary of State for Employment about cash flow and employment in the food manufacturing industry and I have carefully considered many representations from the industry during the current review of the Price Code. While there have been some redundancies and closures over the last 12 months it is impossible to say to what extent the Price Code is responsible as opposed to other factors.'

Mr. Gwilym Roberts (Cannock) inquired about plans by the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection to use her powers under the Prices Act 1974 to fix prices.

Mrs. Williams stated that maximum prices and retail margins of bread and of butter are now controlled under the Act and added: 'Prices Orders for cheese, tea and household flour will be made shortly.'

Cost of living

Mr. Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington) and Mr. Peter Rost (South-East Derbyshire) asked for estimates of the increase in the retail price index.

Mr. Williams said: 'The Retail Price Index for November was 18.3 per cent higher than the figure for 1973. The increase over the three months to November was 4.9 per cent.'

Mr. Cyril D. Townsend (Bexley, Bexleyheath) asked for a statement on the workings of the voluntary code.

Mr. Maclennan said: 'Since May the agreement items as a whole have increased in price only half as much as the Retail Price Index. I am grateful to the trade for their co-operation and have recently reaffirmed the continued importance the Government attaches to the agreement.'

Sugar

Mr. Michael Latham (Melton) inquired about the effect of the recently announced arrangements for purchasing sugar on the food price index.

Mr. Maclennan said: 'Following the agreement to pay £140 per ton fob to Commonwealth sugar suppliers for shipments between 1 September 1974 and 31 December 1974, the average retail price of a 2 lb. bag of granulated sugar has risen by 4½p. The price of sugar next year will depend on a number of factors including the outcome of price negotiations with Commonwealth suppliers and the quantities subject to the EEC subsidy scheme. An increase of 1p in the retail price of the 2 lb. bag of granulated sugar raises the Food Index by 0.16 points.'

Food subsidies

Mr. Ian Gow (Eastbourne) asked if steps would be taken to ensure that less than 52 per cent of the estimated cost of food subsidies in the current financial year would be received by households with an income above £50 per week.

'The changes in direct taxation introduced by the present Government are ensuring that the cost of the food subsidies programme is borne by households with incomes of over £50 per week,' answered Mrs. Williams. 'It is not part of our policy to require people to undergo a means test before receiving the benefit of food subsidies.'

Mr. Michael Neubert (Havering, Romford) asked for an estimate of the total cost of food subsidies for the current financial year.

'About £503 million,' answered Mr. Maclennan.

Mr. Nicholas Ridley (Cirencester and Tewkesbury) wanted to know the total annual cost of subsidies to milk.

Mr. Maclennan told him: 'About £323 million in the current financial year.'

Mr. W. W. Hamilton (Central Fife) asked about further plans for subsidising bread and other basic foods.

Mr. Maclennan said: 'We are aware that, following the recent wage increases plant bakers have recently submitted notifications of price increases to the Price Commission. We shall consider the need for changes in the existing subsidies when the Price Commission have completed their examination of these and any other notifications.'

Expenditure on food

Mr. James Wellbeloved (Bexley, Erith and Crayford) inquired about the average expenditure on food per head of the population of working age at the latest available date.

Mr. Maclennan replied: 'There are no official statistics of expenditure on food by people of working age because figures for both the National Food Survey and the Family Expenditure Survey relate to whole households. National Food Survey estimates show that people of all ages except those in pensioner households spent on average £3.06 per person per week between April and June 1974. This does not include about 70p per week spent on soft drinks, confectionery and meals (including school meals) away from home.'

Standardised quantities

An inquiry was made by Miss Janet Fookes (Plymouth, Drake) on the progress being made with the extension to a wide variety of goods of the provision to sell them in prescribed standardised quantities.

Mr. Williams said: 'Formal consultations were opened last week on proposals relating to biscuits and shortbread. In the new year I also expect to be able to announce plans for wine sold both by the carafe and by the glass and for implementing the EEC range for chocolate bars.'

Footwear

Mr. Mike Noble (Rossendale) asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection would consult members of the footwear industry with a view to establishing minimum standards for children's footwear, to which both British and imported foreign children's footwear must conform.

'I understand that the British Standards Institute has already consulted a section of the Trade about the need to revise the British Standard on children's footwear,' answered Mr. Williams. 'I also understand that the Director General of Fair Trading has met representatives of the manufacturing and retail footwear industry and that these discussions are still proceeding with a view to establishing a voluntary code of practice.

Such a code could incorporate among other things accepted minimum standards of such things as durability.'

Would steps be taken, asked Mr. David Young (Bolton East) to improve shoe retailers' knowledge of the rights of their customers to complain about shoddy footwear.

Mr. Williams replied: 'Copies of a new leaflet issued by my Department, "Changes in the law relating to the sale of goods – retailers' guide", have been made available to the trade associations concerned for distribution to their members. In our general publicity for the leaflet we have also made plain that retailers themselves can ask their trade association or local Trading Standards Office for copies. We are hoping to back up these efforts by arranging for Trading Standards Officers to leave copies of the leaflet in all the shops they visit in the course of their duties.'

Nationalised industry consumer councils

Mr. John Golding (Newcastle-under-Lyme) asked what steps would be taken to strengthen the Consumer Council for the Gas Industry.

Mr. Williams' reply is published on page 697.

National Consumers' Agency

Mr. Mike Thomas (Newcastle upon Tyne East) asked whether the TUC and the CBI would be asked to nominate members of the National Consumers' Agency; and for information on the composition of the Agency.

'The composition of the Agency is still under consideration,' said Mr. Williams. 'But as indicated in paragraph 5 of the White Paper (Cmnd. 5726) the TUC and CBI represent the interests of those concerned in the production of goods and services whereas the role of the agency will be to give similar voice to the interests of the consumer.'

Consumer protection by local authorities

Mr. Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) asked how many local authorities now offer some form of consumer protection service to their own ratepayers.

Mr. Williams told him: 'All local weights and measures authorities enforce a wide range of consumer protection legislation. There are now 46 local authority consumer advice centres and there are plans for others.'

Advertising claims

A statement was requested by Mr. Ioan L. Evans (Aberdare) on the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection's proposals to test advertising claims and to control false, misleading and wasteful advertising.

Mr. Williams answered: 'Existing legislation, notably the Trade Descriptions Act 1968, gives the consumer substantial protection against misleading claims. As already announced, the Act's provisions are being reviewed. Meanwhile we are watching closely the steps the advertising industry is taking to strengthen its own system of control and whether further statutory controls will be necessary.'

Mrs. Helene Hayman (Welwyn and Hatfield) asked if measures would be taken to stop the abuses in pricing policy on certain goods currently caused by 'special offers' which in fact work to the disadvantage of the consumer.

Mr. Williams answered: 'The Director General of Fair Trading has invited evidence on misleading price comparisons, including abuses of the kind my Hon. Friend has in mind, with a view to a possible reference to the Consumer Protection Advisory Committee. I am sure that he would be glad to receive any representations she cares to send him.'

Packaging costs

Mr. Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar) asked for an estimate of the average percentage of the retail prices of those commodities carrying a Government subsidy relating to the cost of packaging.

'I regret that no statistics are available on which to base an estimate of packaging costs for the subsidised foods,' said Mr. Maclennan. 'However, we are aware that packaging can account for a significant proportion of total costs, and we are considering what action may be necessary in this field.'

Mr. Maclennan was also questioned by Mrs. Sally Oppenheim (Gloucester) on the inflationary effects of excessive packaging of consumer goods.

'I am anxious to ensure that packaging does not unnecessarily lead to increased prices for the consumer and I am considering the matter urgently,' he said.

HS 146

Mr. Robin Corbett (Hemel Hempstead) asked the Secretary of State for Industry: 'Whether in view of the unilateral cancellation of the HS 146 by Hawker Siddeley on 14 October, he will now seek to obtain the maximum financial penalties from the company for breach of contract as provided for in the original funding agreement between the company and Government?'

Mr. Benn said: 'I am advised that the company is in breach of contract. In its relations with the company, including discussions about the future of the project, the Government intends to take account of that fact.'

Petrol prices

Mr. Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) inquired about representations received from the Petrol Retailers' Association about profit margins on petrol sales.

Mr. Meacher answered: 'The Petroleum Retailers' Association and the Motor Agents' Association have made representations to officials of my Department and the Department of Energy about the profit margins available to retailers under the Motor Fuel (Maximum Retail Prices) Order 1973 and these are being considered by Government.'

Diesel engines

Mr. Peter Rost asked for an estimate of the possible savings in energy by the increased use of diesel engines for private road vehicles.

Mr. Meacher answered: 'Estimates made by industry suggest that if 50 per cent of vehicles of all types in this country became diesel engined there would be an annual saving in direct fuel consumption for road use of the order of 7 to 12 per cent. There would be other consequential changes in energy consumption in vehicle construction and in refinery operation.'

Nationalisation

Mr. Eldon Griffiths (Bury St. Edmunds) asked for the estimated likely cost of nationalising the aerospace and shipbuilding industries; and what call on public funds were expected in the next three financial years in pursuance of other policies of State intervention in industry.

Mr. MacKenzie answered: 'As regards the cost of the measures foreshadowed in the Gracious Speech, I must ask the Hon. Member to await the detailed proposals that will be laid before the House. Government support for industry under existing powers is expected to total about £800 million in 1974-75 and forecasts for future years will be published shortly in the White Paper on Public Expenditure.'

Commercial consultants

Mr. Nigel Spearing (Newham South) asked the Secretary of State for Industry: 'What procedures he operates to safeguard public funds when studies are carried out by commercial consultants; and if this differs from the procedures operated prior to March 1974?'

Mr. MacKenzie said: 'The procedures operated by my Department in regard to studies carried out by commercial consultants are based on a published Code of Practice drawn up by the Civil Service Department. They embody as normal practice competitive tendering; detailed evaluation of consultants' proposals prior to final selection; drawing-up of the terms of engagement; monitoring the progress of the consultancy; and appraisal of performance. The same procedures apply as operated prior to March 1974.'

Textile fibres market

Information on the present state of the fibres market in the UK was sought by Mr. John Watkinson (West Gloucestershire). He also inquired about the effects on that market of cyclical fluctuations and recent developments in the economy.

'I assume my Hon. Friend is referring to textile fibres,' said Mr. Meacher. 'The market situation varies somewhat between different fibres, but there is in general no shortage of supplies, and the price of the main fibres (cotton, wool and man-made) has fallen from the peaks of the last two years. Total demand is related to the level of demand in the textile and clothing industries, and therefore to the state of the economy in the United Kingdom and in world markets. Comparative demand is influenced by the relative market prices of the different fibres.'

Footwear imports

Mr. Michael Latham (Melton) asked for a statement on the meeting between the Joint Under-Secretary of State for Industry and representatives of the British Footwear Manufacturers Federation on 6 December; and whether action will be taken by the Department of Industry regarding COMECON imports, unfair competition from

COMECON imports, unfair competition from developing countries, as outlined by the representatives, and Australian quota restrictions.

Mr. Meacher said: 'I met on 6 December representatives of the British Footwear Manufacturers, the Lancashire Footwear Manufacturers' Association, the National Union of Footwear Leather and Allied Trades, and the Rossendale Union of Boot, Shoe and Slipper Operatives. The representatives of the industry described in detail the present level of activity of the industry, and urged that the Government take steps to restrain the growth in imports of certain types of footwear from Eastern European Countries. I said that we were urgently considering with the Department of Trade the case that the industry had made and that I hoped that a decision could be reached very soon. We also discussed import competition from developing countries, and the recently introduced Australian quota restrictions and I described the action that the Government is taking.'

Scottish electronics and allied industries

Mr. Douglas Crawford (Perth and East Perthshire) spoke of a rundown in the Scottish electronics and allied industries and asked for a study into the feasibility of establishing electronic component actories in Scotland, thus reducing the unit costs of that industry.

Mr. Meacher answered: 'I do not think that such a study would be helpful. The recent difficulties of electronics companies in Scotland reflect in the main a fall in demand which has also affected suppliers in other parts of the United Kingdom. I have no reason to think that these difficulties would have been lessened in Scotland if there had been more electronic component factories there or that this would necessarily have resulted in significantly lower unit costs for the companies concerned. We shall of course continue our efforts to attract suitable new projects to Scotland, where the full range of assisted area support is available.'

North West Region

Mr. Churchill (Stretford) inquired about payments being made by the Department of Industry and advice about tax concessions provided through the department to firms in the North West Region with a view to limiting the rise in unemployment in each of the last four months.

Mr. MacKenzie replied that full records are not kept on a regional basis, but gave the following approximate figures for payments by the Department of Industry:

	£m.
August	4.1
September	3.9
October	5.6
November	4.3

These figures exclude investment grants, which are not confined to the assisted areas, and Regional Employment Premium, which is the responsibility of the Department of Employment.

'Tax allowances available to undertakings in the assisted areas are set out in the booklet "Incentives for Industry in the Areas for Expansion" which is available free of charge to firms that are considering investment in the assisted areas,' said Mr. MacKenzie.

Kirkby and Merseyside

Mr. Robert Kilroy-Silk (Ormskirk) asked about approaches to the Department of Industry from companies wishing to be located in Kirkby and on Merseyside.

'The Department does not record inquiries for sites and premises in the North West by specific location,' said Mr. Heffer. 'However, during the 12 months to 30 November 1974 the Department's Regional Office suggested a range of Merseyside locations to 358 firms, and Kirkby was amongst locations specifically suggested to 107 firms.'

Questions on unemployment in Merseyside and Kirkby were also put by Mr. Kilroy-Silk

Mr. Heffer answered: 'We give high priority to the stimulation of regional development and employment and have been looking carefully at the needs of areas, such as Merseyside, which have unacceptably high rates of unemployment. The recent granting of Special Development Area status to Merseyside, the doubling of the Regional Employment Premium and the strengthening of the IDC control should help to improve the situation. My Department is co-operating with other Departments in a study in depth of employment change in the North West, including Merseyside.'

Post Office parcel rate

Mr. Ian Mikardo (Tower Hamlets, Bethnal Green and Bow) asked for updated figures for the payment by the Post Office to BR for carrying parcels that was given on page 194 of the Select Committee on Nationalised Industries' report on the National Freight Corporation.

'I understand from the Post Office that the equivalent payment in 1973-74 was £11.6 million,' said Mr. MacKenzie.

Import Duties (General) (No. 5)

Mr. Richard Body (Holland with Boston) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, to list every item of food, if imported from outside the European Community, subject to an increase of duty or tariff under the Import Duties (General) (No. 5) Order 1974, in each case stating the nature of the increase.

'It is impracticable to set out in the Official Report a list of the products affected and the changes in duties,' said Mr. Deakins. 'Detailed information is available in the Import Duties (General) (No. 5) Order 1974 (SI No. 2020/74) and in the Orders it revokes.

'A range of products such as pig meat, poultry, dairy produce, cereals and sugar are not subject to import duties. The duties on most other foodstuffs imported from outside the Community will be increased from 1 January next; the main exceptions are duties on beef and veal, on which the next transitional change is not due until April.'

Changes in UK tariffs

Mr. Tom Ellis (Wrexham) asked for an estimate of the overall effect of the changes in UK tariffs due on 1 January next designed to bring the UK more into line with the EEC common external tariffs.

'The overall effect of the changes being made on 1 January in duties on imports from non-Community countries is expected to be very small,' said Mr. Deakins.

Agricultural imports from EEC

Mr. James Spicer (West Dorset) wanted to know the total value of agricultural imports from the EEC in the first nine months of this year and the percentage increase this represents over the corresponding period for 1973.

Mr. Deakins said that agricultural imports (Section 0 of SITC(R)) from the EEC, including trans-shipments, in the first nine months of this year were valued at £1,072 million: 57 per cent higher than in the same period last year.

Trade with EEC

The latest figures for the UK's balance of trade with other member countries of the EEC, the Commonwealth and the rest of the world were requested by Mr. Dafydd Wigley, (Caernarvon).

Mr. Deakins gave the following information for the 11 months January to November 1974:

OVERSEAS TRADE STATISTICS BASIS*
Not seasonally adjusted — £ million

	Exports fob	Imports cif	Crude balance
EEC	5,029	7,082	−2,053
Commonwealth	2,463	2,999	−536
Rest of the world	7,556	11,160	−3,604
Total	15,048	21,241	−6,193

* Figures on a balance of payments basis which provides a better measure of the balance of trade in goods because, inter alia, of differences in valuation, are available only for total trade.

Agricultural machinery

Mr. John Spence (Thirsk and Malton) asked what proportion the exports of UK manufactured agricultural machinery were of total UK plant machinery exports in each of the last 10 years.

Mr. Deakins gave the following values of agricultural machinery (including tractors) as a percentage of mechanical and electrical plant and machinery exports:

1964	11.2
1965	10.0
1966	10.1
1967	8.7
1968	8.1
1969	8.2
1970	7.2
1971	6.8
1972	7.0
1973	6.9

'Tractors represent the major part of agricultural machinery exports, eg in 1973 tractors were 5.1 per cent of all plant and machinery whilst other agricultural machinery was only 1.8 per cent,' he said.

Court Line

Mr. Malcolm Rifkind (Edinburgh, Pentlands) asked the Secretary of State for Trade: 'If he can now say when he proposes that members of the public, who lost their holidays booked with Court Line Ltd., should be able to expect to receive their money back and whether he will now make a statement on the progress of the Government's efforts to ensure the repayment to members of the public who lost money paid to Court Line Ltd.?'

Mr. Shore answered: 'The legislation foreshadowed in the Gracious Speech will, I hope, be introduced early in the New Year, making provision for repayment to help those holidaymakers and others travelling abroad by air who lost money this year as a result of the failure of their air travel organiser. It is too early to say when payments will be made.'

Electricity and gas consumption

Mr. Mike Thomas (Newcastle-upon-Tyne East) asked for information as to the pattern of electricity

and gas consumption in Great Britain, particularly relating to the level of domestic consumption to socio-economic status, income level, and nature of dwelling of the consumer.

Mr. Varley replied: 'The most convenient source of information about the pattern of household fuel consumption is the Family Expenditure Survey. This is a continuous multi-purpose survey conducted by the Department of Employment into the income and expenditure of some 7,000 households in the UK. The results are published annually and the most recent report is the one for 1973. The information is subject to sampling variation and estimates of this are given in Appendix 2. I have arranged for the extraction and tabulation of:

i Household expenditure on fuel, light and power by weekly income
ii Expenditure by type of tenure
iii Expenditure by region

and these have been placed in the Library.'

Energy saving

Mr. Grimond (Orkney and Zetland) asked why the Secretary of State for Energy, has not previously discussed energy saving with local authorities.

Mr. Eadie answered: 'All such discussions are the responsibility of the particular Secretaries of State concerned whose Departments have previously been in touch with Local Authorities. The Government will now be initiating further discussions on energy saving measures.'

Civil aviation policy

Mr. Neville Trotter (Tynemouth) asked the Secretary of State for Trade when the general review of British airline policy was commenced; its terms of reference; the membership of the review body; what procedure is being adopted for consultation with airlines and other interested parties; and whether the report will be published.

Mr. Shore replied: 'Following adverse developments in the demand for air travel earlier this year, I set in hand in October the present review of UK civil aviation policy. Its terms of reference (which were incorrectly stated in my Written reply to the Question by my Hon. Friend, the Member for Hounslow, Feltham and Heston on 5 December), are as follows:

> To consider what changes may be desirable to UK civil aviation policy, as embodied in the Civil Aviation Policy Guidance approved by Parliament in March 1972, in the light of the present economic and financial position and prospects of the British civil air transport industry.

'The review is being conducted by officials of my Department in consultation with the Civil Aviation Authority. Letters have been sent to airlines and other organisations most closely interested inviting them to make known their views on the issues to be covered by the review. In my Answer on 5 December I invited any other organisations or individual wishing to express their views to do so by writing to the Secretary to the review at Room 217, Shell Mex House, Strand, London, WC2 by 17 January.

'I expect the review to be completed in the spring.'

Tuesday, 17 December

Employment protection

Mr. Stanley Newens (Harlow) asked if powers would be sought to place on the liquidators of insolvent firms an obligation to take all possible steps to safeguard the jobs of the greatest possible number of employees.

'No,' said Mr. Shore. 'The Consultative Document on the Employment Protection Bill recently issued by my Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Employment contains proposals for safeguarding the position of employees and ensuring full and reasonably prompt payment of their claims. Legislation will be proposed in due course. Further, the rights of employees in an insolvency are being considered in the context of company and insolvency law generally.'

Free trade agreements

Mr. James Sillars (South Ayrshire) asked for a list of the countries with which the United Kingdom has a free trade agreement.

Mr. Deakins said: 'The Anglo-Irish Free Trade Agreement of 1966 is our only formal bilateral Free Trade Agreement. But industrial free trade has been maintained with Denmark under an arrangement within the Community and with EFTA countries by the Free Trade Agreements between them and the Community.'

Agreements between EEC and non-EEC countries

Mr. Douglas Jay (Wandsworth, Battersea North) asked if members of the EEC are at liberty to negotiate national commercial agreements with non-member countries; and whether the recent commercial agreement between France and the USSR requires the approval of the EEC.

Mr. Deakins said: 'Under the Common Commercial Policy authority to negotiate commercial agreements with non-member states is vested solely in the Commission, which acts on a mandate given by the member states in the Council. The recent agreement between France and the USSR was an economic co-operation agreement, not a commercial agreement. Member states can negotiate economic co-operation agreements, which fall outside the Common Commercial Policy, but there is consultation on their terms to ensure that they do not conflict with the policy.'

Pinnock Finance

Mr. Robert Taylor (Croydon North West) wanted to know the total amount in the pound received to date by the depositors in the Pinnock Finance Company Ltd. from the liquidator; and if any further payment on account is imminent.

'A first dividend of 2½p in the £ has been paid and a second dividend of 3p in the £ is payable on 16 December 1974,' said Mr. Clinton Davis.

Aircraft noise

Mr. Andrew Bennett (Stockport North) inquired about progress with experiments for two segment approaches by aircraft, with a view to reducing aircraft noise.

Mr. Clinton Davis said that research was continuing but this matter was highly complex and considerable further work would be required before a decision could be taken on the feasibility of introducing the two-segment approach as a standard procedure, bearing in mind the vital importance of safety.

London-Heathrow north-bound route

Mr. Robin Corbett (Hemel Hempstead) wanted to know the maximum and minimum recorded heights at which aircraft on the present north-bound route out of London-Heathrow pass over the nearest westerly point to Bovingdon, Hertfordshire.

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: 'Northbound aircraft taking off to the west from Heathrow and following the present route via Burnham and Henton would be nearest to Bovingdon at a point roughly four miles north of High Wycombe where they would be about 10 miles west of Bovingdon. Records of maximum and minimum heights of aircraft are not maintained, but I am advised by the Civil Aviation Authority that the normal minimum height of aircraft at this point would be about 4,000 ft. but that on occasion, when the traffic situation permits, some aircraft could be as high as 10,000 ft.'

Concorde

Mr. Barney Hayhoe (Hounslow, Brentford and Isleworth) asked for estimates of the noise levels expected at take-off and landing for Concorde; and how the figures compare with those for the latest versions of the VC10, Boeing 707, Boeing 747, DC8, DC10, Trident, BAC-1-11 and TriStar.

Mr. Meacher answered: 'The manufacturers' latest estimate is that Concorde's noise levels on Certification at the increased weight of 400,000 lb. now proposed will be 118 EPNdB on take-off and 115 EPNdB on landing. These compare with existing aircraft as follows:

	EPNdB	
	Take-off	Landing
VC10	110	112
Boeing 707-320C	114	120
DC8-61	115	116
Boeing 747-200 B/F	108	107
Trident 3B	105	110
BAC 1-11 500	99	104
Lockheed 10-11	97	103
DC 10-30	104	107

Postcode sorting

Mr. Norman Atkinson (Haringey, Tottenham) asked about the percentage of letters automatically sorted using the postcode system; the estimated cost benefit to the Post Office; and the estimated cost to industry, commerce and the public of adding a postcode to the normal address.

Mr. MacKenzie answered: 'The Post Office tells me about 6 per cent of all machinable mail, or some nine million items a week, is at present sorted automatically; and that, while postal mechanisation helps to reduce the demand for scarce manpower, the full financial benefits of automatic sorting will not accrue until the network as a whole is completed. I regret that I have no informa-

tion about the cost to the customer of using postcodes.'

Oil prices

Mr. James Sillars asked the Secretary of State for Energy, about the price of oil products.

Mr. Varley said: 'As I said in my statement last week, the oil companies have notified the Price Commission of their intention to increase prices of oil products, mainly in consequence of higher prices for crude charged by the producing countries. The increases will differ from company to company and in accordance with the policy which I outlined last week, it is intended to weight this increase on petrol. In consequence, the oil companies will increase the price of petrol by some 7p a gallon. In addition, we recognise that some increase is warranted in the retail margins of the smaller dealers.

'I have reviewed the maximum retail price controls on petrol, derv and paraffin in the light of these developments. These controls were introduced a year ago by the previous Administration at a time of shortage to protect the consumer. The situation has now been transformed. Products are now in ample supply and there is widespread competition in the petrol market, with price cutting and special promotional offers. The control on petrol and derv prices no longer fulfills a useful purpose, and it will therefore be lifted with effect from midnight, Thursday, 19 December. I have made it clear to the trade that I do not expect the pump price of petrol to increase by more than 10p a gallon when account is taken of VAT, and in many cases it should be less. We shall be keeping a very careful watch on the situation, and I shall not hesitate to reimpose the controls should it become necessary. In the meantime, of course, both oil companies and retailers will have to conform with the full provisions of the Price Code.

'Different considerations apply to paraffin, which is of special importance to low income users. Some increase in price is necessary to ensure that supplies are forthcoming and that the number of retail outlets is maintained. I am amending the maximum retail price order to allow an increase of 3p a gallon with effect from midnight, Thursday, 19 December.'

Wednesday, 18 December

CAA pensions

Mr. Russell Kerr (Feltham and Heston) inquired about pension provision for employees of the Civil Aviation Authority.

Mr. Shore replied: 'Under the provisions of paragraph 13(1) of Schedule 1 of the Civil Aviation Act 1971, I have, with the approval of the Minister of the Civil Service, determined the Authority's pension arrangements for employees. The Authority has an obligation to become self-supporting; that is, to recover the whole of its costs and to earn a reasonable return on capital. The aim set out in the Policy Guidance is to dispense with grants-in-aid by 1977/78; certainly well before then the Authority should be financing more than half of total operating expenditure from its own resources. The Authority is unique among grant-aided bodies in being required to work to a financial target which is akin to the financial objectives of the nationalised industries. With this factor in mind, and having regard to the urgent need for the Authority to conclude contracts with its staff, I have agreed to a pension scheme which is different in some respects from normal public services provision. I have thus anticipated the position which will in any event arise before long when the lesser part of the Authority's revenue is derived from grant-in-aid and when it will be the intention to seek legislation to remove the statutory requirement for control over pension provision.'

British firms in South Africa

Questions were asked by Mr. Neil Kinnock (Bedwellty) on the recommendations given to British firms operating in South Africa on the conduct of their relationships with black and coloured South African employees and on the names of British firms in South Africa not currently complying with these recommendations.

Mr. Shore gave the following information: 'A Command Paper containing the Government's observations on this report is being laid before Parliament today. It includes Inland Revenue guidance on the tax aspect to which the Confederation of British Industry and United Kingdom South Africa Trade Association raised no objection. The Government are satisfied that parent companies can act with confidence in implementing the Select Committee's Code of Practice which the Government have commended to British firms with South African interests.' (*See also page 714*).

Oil pollution

Mr. Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar) asked how much has been spent in each of the last three years in remedying oil pollution off British coasts.

Mr. Clinton Davis answered that the Department of Trade incurred on actual incidents in the last three years the following expenditure, most of which was recovered from those responsible:

1971	£131,238
1972	Nil
1973	£23,860

'These figures do not include the cost of maintaining an oil clearing organisation and holding exercises, or expenditure on beach cleaning by local authorities,' he said.

Mr. McCrindle also asked about provisions for training HM Coastguard in procedures to deal with oil pollution.

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: 'HM Coastguard is responsible for passing reports of the presence of oil slicks to all concerned so that the Principal Marine Survey Officers of the Department of Trade and their staffs at our ports can take action to deal with oil threatening pollution of our coasts. The staff involved are trained in their duties through courses and practical exercises and Coastguard instructions fully cover their responsibilities.'

European Patent Office

Mr. Kenneth Warren (Hastings) asked for a statement on the progress made towards the establishment of and the site for the European Patents Office.

'The preparatory work for opening the European Patent Office is well under way and it is estimated that the Office will open in 1978,' said Mr. Clinton Davis. 'Building work on the site in Munich will probably begin next spring.'

Trade with Saudi Arabia

Mr. Stephen Ross (Isle of Wight) asked the Secretary of State for Industry: 'If he will follow up the Government's initiative in seeking to expand trade with Saudi Arabia by giving assistance to companies to help them produce the required goods in the right quantities at the right time?'

Mr. Heffer replied: 'The services of the British Overseas Trade Board and Department of Trade are available to advise companies of market requirements. The Chancellor's budget strategy was designed to switch resources to exports. The banks have been placed in a position to give the highest priority to the financial needs of industry. Government financial assistance under the Industry Act 1972 could also be made available in appropriate cases to eligible concerns.'

Diesel engines

Mr. Peter Rost (South East Derbyshire) asked if financial assistance would be provided to industry for the research, development and marketing of diesel engines as suitable substitutes for petrol engines for private road vehicles.

'Financial assistance is already available under the Science and Technology Act for research and development of this kind,' said Mr. Meacher 'and my Department has spent some £100,000 over the last few years on supporting minor research projects relevant to the development of light-weight diesel engines. The rising cost of fuel has given urgency to the development of more economical engines for private road vehicles, including diesel engines, and my Department is discussing future development requirements with companies in the industry.'

Printers in development areas

Mr. David Madel (South Bedfordshire) said that printers and publishers in a development area can claim investment grant on all preparatory work up to platemaking thus reducing printing costs by 22 per cent and asked if the Secretary of State for Industry would investigate the effect of this advantage over printers in other areas to satisfy himself that it is consistent with Government investment policy, and with fair competition; and if he will re-examine the position on investment grants to printers generally.

Mr. MacKenzie answered: 'Under Part I of the Industry Act 1972, Regional Development Grants may be paid on expenditure in providing new machinery or plant for use in qualifying premises in a development area.

'Qualifying premises are premises used wholly or mainly for qualifying activities of which printing is one. It follows – as every postwar administration has intended – that printers in an assisted area who satisfy the requirements of the Act are at an advantage in comparison with those engaged in like activities outside such areas.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be addressed to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 437, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, and *not* to HMSO.

BOTB British Overseas Trade Board

Model exporters

Record sales of toys and games are expected this Christmas. Leslie Walford meets the men of Airfix who help boost Britain's Export business – by making plastic kits

Airfix came into the kit market by accident rather than design, but are today the world's largest producers of model construction kits.

It all started back in 1949 when Airfix were producing a model Ferguson tractor but, short of labour, were having difficulty assembling them. Someone in the factory suggested selling the tractor in bits and before long millions of children and adults were hooked on plastic construction kits. Now, 25 years later, they claim more than 70 per cent of the British market with a range of over 400 kits, and their factory at Wandsworth in South West London, is currently working a three-shift, six-day week.

Exports are booming and have surged ahead dramatically this year. 'We export approximately 50 per cent of our production,' deputy managing director, Alan Munn, told me. 'We have record order books and have already taken on extra premises to enable us to expand.' He pointed out that to achieve sufficient output to meet these new orders will mean taking on additional staff.

Although model kits are the first thing to spring to mind when the name Airfix is mentioned, the company have become famous for other toys in recent years. There are painting by numbers and craft kits, a growing range of boxed games and the Weebles – a pre-school range of wobbly people which sells as well abroad as at home.

When the Lines Brothers group broke up in 1971, Airfix bought Meccano and Dinky Toys from the liquidators and both products have since been developed by their new owners and continue to be seen in the world's shop windows.

In all Airfix Products which, together with Meccano, forms the toy side of Airfix Industries will deliver exports worth over £4 million this year to over 100 different countries.

A new series of trucks and tractors, under the name Mogul, has been launched, and is the first British challenge in the big steel toy market – a sector which until now has been dominated by the Americans. This project entailed extra premises for Meccano in Liverpool and a £160,000 investment in new equipment to cope with the comparatively large heavy-gauge steel pressings.

Airfix are keen subscribers to the Department of Trade's Export Intelligence Service which provides specific sales opportunities and market intelligence to exporters. Garth Drinkwater, the company's overseas sales director, described the services provided by the Export Services and Promotions Division of the Department of Trade as 'very valuable' and said that he'd never been let down by the staff at Export House, even when he had asked for information at extremely short notice.

Mr. Drinkwater told me that, for Airfix, exporting was not simply a question of being proud to see a good British product selling all over the world – it was very good business which provided worthwhile profits. The company now has a network of distributors in all its main overseas markets. Some toys and kits are developed for specific markets – the Swedish frigate, *Wasa* and galleon *St. Louis* were made especially for the Swedish and French markets respectively, for example. Instructions are always produced in three languages.

At the world's two top toy fairs – the British International Toy Fair at Brighton and the Nuremberg Fair – orders were up 300 per cent and 200 per cent respectively this year compared with 1973. One of the reasons for the success of Airfix has been its ability to keep up with the fast changing needs of its customers. In the construction kits field, for instance between 20 and 30 new kits are added every year to the 400-strong range.

Garth Drinkwater is clearly proud of his company's world wide reputation and talks about letters he receives from boys (and their fathers!) in the USSR asking about models. He lives in the hope that one day Airfix will be able to supply toys and models to the Russians as easily as they now sell to other countries. Although Airfix are proud of the detail and accuracy of their models, they are not too proud to learn a thing or two.

Despite a lot of research and advice from British museum experts a Roman soldier kit which Airfix put on the market was found to be incorrect in the detail of the soldier's sandal. 'And', says Mr. Drinkwater, 'it took an 11-year-old schoolgirl to write and point out the mistake!'

Do you use statistics?

The Government Statistical Service (GSS) prepares a wide range of reliable and detailed figures on the United Kingdom. It is usually worth checking to see if what you want is available from them. You can see many government statistical publications at your local public library, buy them from HMSO or refer to the comprehensive collection held at the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4N 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 368).

A free pamphlet, *Government Statistics – a brief guide to sources*, gives up-to-date contact points in Departments for further information. You can obtain copies from regional offices of the Department of Industry or by writing to the Central Statistical Office Press and Information Service, Great George Street, London SW1P 3AQ.

BOTB News

Visits by British Overseas Commercial Officers

The following Overseas Commercial Officers are expected to be in this country shortly, when they will be available for discussions.

Italy
G. Lissone, Commercial Officer (locally engaged) in Genoa since October 1973. Available: April 1975.

Liberia
J. D. Maher, MBE, First Secretary (Commercial) in Monrovia since September 1972. Available: March 1975.

Senegal
V. Sallah, Commercial Officer (locally engaged) in Dakar since May 1965. Available: April 1975.

Zambia
J. McQuiggan, MBE, Deputy High Commissioner and Counsellor (Economic and Commercial) in Lusaka since May 1973. Available: April 1975.

British firms and organisations, other than those in Northern Ireland and in the areas covered by the Department of Trade offices for the Eastern Region and the London and South Eastern Region, who wish to meet these officers to discuss specific export problems are asked to write for appointment to the appropriate Department of Trade Regional Director (Exports) stating the nature of the problem and commodities involved. Those firms and organisations in the London-based Regions mentioned above (together with those in other Regions who would prefer, or who would be prepared if necessary to meet the officers for an interview in London) should write to Tours Section, Department of Trade, Room G60, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU. Firms and organisations who wish to meet these officers in Northern Ireland should contact the Export Branch of the Department of Commerce, Belfast.

Because Commercial Officers often have only limited time at their disposal it may not always be possible to fit everyone in. Where it is possible, firms are reminded that the Export Services and Promotions Division of the Department of Trade, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU who are in close touch with all Overseas Commercial Officers can very often supply advice, or the information that applicants hoped to obtain at the interview. Outside London the Regional Offices of the Department of Trade or, in Northern Ireland, the Department of Commerce, Belfast, can also help.

Air mail for export correspondence

All correspondence overseas should be done by air but care should be taken that mail is fully stamped as correspondence may be delayed and export opportunities lost. Outside busy periods, such as Christmas, the Post Office often makes up postage on insufficiently stamped airmail letters (though this cannot be guaranteed) provided the sender's name and address appears on the envelope. An insufficiently stamped airmail letter not having this information may be sent surface mail or the addressee may be called upon to pay double the missing postage. Full details of overseas postage rates (and much other useful information) are given in the Post Office Guide, obtainable at all post offices, price 20p.

British books sold in Japan

Orders worth £90,000 were taken by British book publishers during an exhibition in November at the British Export Marketing Centre, Tokyo. The exhibition was organised in association with the British Overseas Trade Board and the Book Development Council. The 19 firms which took part displayed a wide range of publications from fashion magazines to library catalogues.

Many of the British publishers represented in Japan were from the technical and academic press. Croom Helm Ltd., who export 5 per cent of their output to Japan, reported special interest in their linguistical atlas of Scotland. As well as increasing their sales to Japan by one-third over the coming year, Croom Helm have sold the publishing rights in Japan for a series of 15 books on environmental problems.

Abacus Press, who specialise in advanced scientific, technical and medical books, report orders of £10,000 during the exhibition and Mansell Information/Publishing Ltd. anticipate sales of over £40,000 in Japan in 1975.

Two companies new to the Japanese market, Lutterworth Press and SPCK/Sheldon Press, were successful in concluding agency agreements. Mr. M. E. Foxell from Lutterworth Press said the response of Japanese booksellers to their publications was highly encouraging and that following initial orders Lutterworth consider worthwhile trade contacts have been established which will result in a new market for their publications.

The exhibition followed two top level missions to Japan and was intended to extend the contacts made in these previous visits. Mr. J. Spragg, MBE, MC, the leader of the British group, said that through their talks with the Japan Book Importers Association, members had indeed succeeded in establishing clearer relationships with their opposite numbers in Japan.

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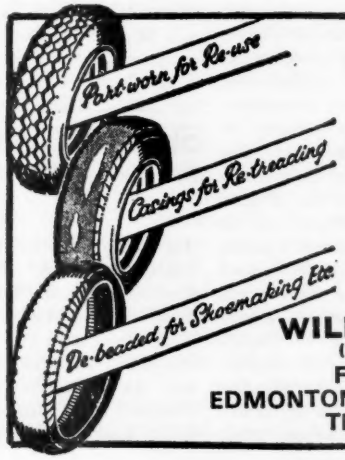

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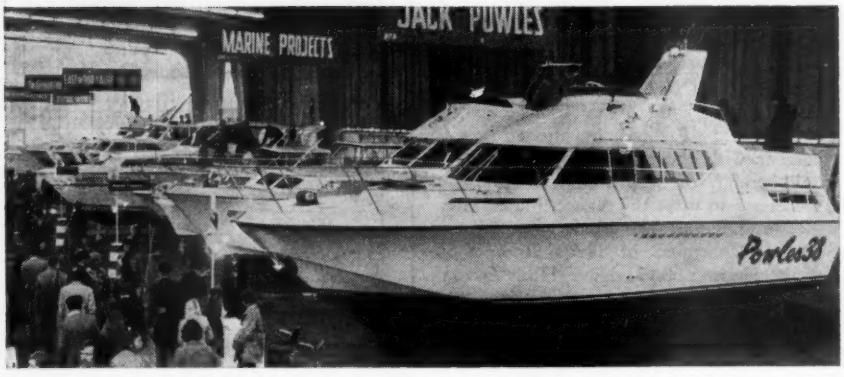
Exhibitions and Fairs



Thirty-eight firms took part in a British joint venture at last month's International Boat Show in Hamburg. The joint venture was sponsored by SBBNF and supported by the British Overseas Trade Board.

UK has largest national group at Brussels furniture forum

From British Embassy, Brussels: Thirty-seventh International Furniture Show, Brussels, 20-25 November: For the first time, the United Kingdom was represented officially at this year's Brussels Furniture Exhibition, probably the largest exhibition to be held anywhere in Belgium – covering 62,000 sq m – and one of the most important in the annual furniture trade calendar.

Thirty-one firms took part in a joint venture at the Palais du Centenaire under the sponsorship of the British Furniture Manufacturers Export Club and the British Overseas Trade Board. There were, in addition, six British companies exhibiting individually. There were also Dutch and Brazilian national participations but ours was the largest.

One might, perhaps, ask why the British furniture industry had decided to come in such strength to an exhibition in a country which is the world's second largest exporter of furniture, whose production has increased by 700 per cent since 1960, whose exports have risen quite phenomenally in the same period, which employs over 23,000 and which has a per capita furniture production almost equal to that of Federal Germany, 91 per cent of which is for the home. The answer certainly lies not only in the contacts made with international buyers (the Belgian market is recognised as a difficult one in which to compete) but in the actual business done by the British group – 28 firms took orders worth £500,000 and a mere seven firms estimated future business arising directly from the exhibition at £500-600,000.

The 31 British firms in the joint venture exhibited a wide variety of reproduction furniture, paintings on glass and occasional furniture, modern cabinet furniture, traditional upholstery in hide and Regency-style knocked-down. Reproduction furniture is undoubtedly our best seller in Belgium, although mention should be made of the very successful participation of Portobello London Studios which found an excellent market for its paintings on glass.

In general, this year's exhibition was much more of a success than the majority of participants and visitors, faced with a deteriorating economic climate, had expected. There is a rather greater confidence in the prospects for 1975. Next year's exhibition will be held at about the same time and in conjunction with the Brussels International Trade Mart which is due to open in April.

Shoe and leather league sets Athens spring show

The 16th Exhibition of Leather Shoes, Leather Articles, Related Materials and Leather Processing Machinery will take place in Athens, 1-6 March, next year.

To be held in the Zappeion Building, the exhibition is organised by the Greek Shoe and Leather Association, 3rd Floor, 64 Panepistimiou Street, Athens 141, from which further information is obtainable.

Peruvian potential for mining plant

From British Embassy, Lima: Twenty-three British companies took part in Tecnomin 74, the exhibition of mining equipment held in Lima, 3-12 November, overlapping with the World Mining Congress. The British participation was organised by the British Overseas Trade Board in conjunction with the London Chamber of Commerce and the Association of British Mining Equipment Exporters.

Those who knew the site of the old British pavilion, tucked away at the back of the exhibition grounds, were pleased to see that on this occasion we had taken a commanding position just inside one of the two big halls at the main entrance.

The exhibition came at a time when Peru is working hard to expand her production and exports of minerals. Mineral exports have traditionally provided over 50 per cent of Peru's export earnings and Minero-Peru, the state mining organisation, has development plans for several large-scale copper mining projects. Centromin, another state entity, has plans for the restructuring of the former Cerro de Pasco mining operations at an approximate cost of US $1,200 million. All these will afford export opportunities.

Of particular interest to British firms are the plans for coal mining development, also handled by Minero-Peru, and the exploitation of the Bayovar phosphate area on the northern coast.

There is also a growing volume of bread-and-butter business in supplying individual items of machinery, including replacements, on ordinary commercial terms. The market is very competitive: many of the western world's largest mining machinery manufacturers have subsidiaries in Peru or are represented locally.

All the British exhibitors at Tecnomin found their attendance well worthwhile. Some sold machinery on the spot; for most of them the value of participation lay in the contacts they established with potential buyers. Particularly interesting was the fact that most of the exhibitors reported useful inquiries from outside Peru, especially from the Andean Pact countries.

The 9th Pacific International Trade Fair will take place in Lima, 12-23 November 1975. This is a general fair held every two years and companies interested in exhibiting should contact N. J. D. Robinson, Department of Trade, tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 7011.

Cycle of trade slower in Japan for machine tools

From D. Warren-Knott, Consul (Commercial), British Consulate-General, Osaka: The 7th Japan International Machine Tool Fair opened on 24 October in Osaka. One thousand firms participated with just under one-third of the number coming from 17 foreign countries. The fair was inaugurated in 1962 and since then has alternated between Tokyo and Osaka every two years. The United Kingdom was represented by 12 firms and the Machine Tool Trades Association mounted an information stand. MTTA President, Galliers-Pratt, together with Director-General Barrett and Secretary Bromige were present for the opening. Altogether, 26 representatives of the British machine tool industry attended the fair.

British firms exhibited in a joint venture organised by the Department of Trade and the MTTA but, in place of the national stand arranged at this event previously, the firms displayed their products on their agent's stands. With four firms sharing one agent, this left the Union Jack flying over nine stands altogether.

The economic recession which Japan is now experiencing has come at a time when the high rate of growth in domestic manufacture and the high rate of imports of machine tools from abroad had in any case begun to show a decline in the normal cycle of trade in machine tools. Against this background, no participant in the fair could have expected to do the sort of business possible at the 1972 event when trade was booming.

The organisers reported just over 720,000 visitors to the fair, of which 2,500 were from abroad. Business inquiries are said to have covered a total of Y273,000 million (£390 million), of which about a little less than Y20 million represented inquiries from Japanese importers of foreign equipment.

In terms of actual orders placed, the figures were inevitably much less impressive and, although Delapena Honing Equipment Co. Ltd., for example, could report the sale of six machines and other British companies expressed satisfaction with orders received, on this occasion the value of participation did not lie in the actual sales achieved.

This event has to be viewed as a fair at which it was important that British firms with a reputation to make or maintain should exhibit in order to demonstrate what the UK can offer against the time, it is to be hoped soon, that Japanese industry is once again able to undertake this sort of capital investment on a substantial scale. It has also offered a valuable opportunity for British firms to estimate the potential of the Japanese market. There was general agreement among the British exhibitors that on these grounds that participation in this fair had been well worthwhile.

Many useful contacts made at Gothenburg

From British Consulate-General, Gothenburg: Nine British exhibitors made up one of the most attractive stands at Scanautomatic 74, the third international fair in Sweden covering hydraulic and pneumatic equipment, transmission equipment and control technology. The British stand was the only national joint venture at the fair among 356 exhibitors from 17 different countries.

The British display was organised by the British Overseas Trade Board and the Association of Hydraulic Equipment Manufacturers, and the stands were well visited, particularly towards the end of the fair. It was open 22-27 November and during this period almost exactly 10,000 trade visitors had left their customers cards at the entrance. Of these, some 135 came from non-Nordic countries. The special fairs in Gothenberg are generally visited by many Norwegians, Danes and Finns and it certainly was the case again this time.

Another exhibition, Contact, mainly showing automatic reproduction and printing machinery, was held in an adjoining hall. This event attracted another 7,000 registered trade visitors and many of them obviously had good reason to pass through the open door into Scanautomatic.

Three conferences were held in conjunction with the fair, the largest with 130 participants debated new electronic aids for industry. Many large and complicated automatic machines were on display, as well as components and small machinery. Our British visitors were able to make interesting contacts with foreign industries, some of international repute.

Agency approaches were also made and one company will probably be able to finalise distribution arrangements in three countries. Swedish trade fairs are not noted for quick decisions and the filling of order books, but exhibitors all agreed that, in addition to a good opportunity to support their distributors, so necessary in this market, they met many customers and potential customers. New products were successfully introduced and a first assessment of the market potential in Scandinavia could be made.

Many found to their surprise that this market is much larger than they had anticipated and some even received inquiries too large for them to consider at present. Regular deliveries are the key to success in Sweden where constant interest and a reliable service is appreciated and those who are new to the market discovered that much preparatory work has to be done.

J. F. Nosworthy, director of the Association of Hydraulic Equipment Manufacturers, looked after its interests and he was constantly on the move. Gathered round his information stand were the displays of: Applied Technology Publications Ltd., B. and G. Hydraulic Ltd., Expert Industrial Controls Ltd., Kay Pneumatic Ltd., Moog Ltd., Sterling Hydraulics Ltd., (couplings and valve divisions), UCC International Ltd.

Swiss engineering industry – prospects for specialists

From W. Boenheim, British Consulate-General, Zürich: The 7th International Hydraulics-Pneumatics Exhibition was held 28 October-2 November in five halls of the Zuspa Exhibition Centre in Zürich. On a total display area of 20,000 sq m (15,000 sq m at the last exhibition in 1972), 220 firms, 64 of which came from outside Switzerland, displayed a wide range of hydraulics and pneumatics components and systems coming from 18 countries. A total of 18,150 visitors coming from many nations were attracted to this truly international exhibition.

At this year's exhibition, two government-sponsored groups took part: a British joint venture, comprising 19 UK companies; and a French, considerably smaller, group.

The fairly substantial British contingent was sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board, Association of Hydraulic Equipment Manufacturers and the British Compressed Air Society. In addition to the British manufacturers exhibiting their products at the official joint venture stand, many other UK companies showed products on stands of their own or on the stands of their Swiss agents.

The joint venture group included many British manufacturers of hydraulic pumps, motors, transmissions, service units, solenoids, seals, pneumatic control systems, power tools, air filters, compressors.

The Swiss engineering industry offers considerable potential for British manufacturers of pneumatic and hydraulic components. This industry is still working to capacity and, in view of Switzerland's substantial export business, most British imported components are re-exported again as part of a finished Swiss engineering product, the most important of which are textile machinery, printing equipment, machine tools and electrical equipment.

The UK exhibitors reported that the 7th International Hydraulics-Pneumatics Exhibition in Zürich was a worthwhile undertaking and that, in addition to meeting their established Swiss customers, many new contacts were made and inquiries were received from engineering companies and traders from the rest of Europe and the Far East. At such a technical exhibition immediate orders cannot be expected but the participants in the British joint venture were quite hopeful that some of the inquiries received will work out in actual business in the course of their follow-up work.

It is generally agreed that trade exhibitions of this kind are a valuable meeting point and a springboard for entering other markets on the continent. For this reason, most British participants expressed their interest to take part again at the next biennial Hydraulics-Pneumatics Exhibition which will be held, again in Zürich, at the end of 1976.

Export Business

British machinery to produce razor blades in GDR factory

A contract to supply £800,000 of plant for the production of razor blades is being placed with Wilkinson Sword Ltd. by the German Democratic Republic, it was announced last week. This equipment is to be installed in a new factory that is being set up to make stainless steel double-edge razor blades for the domestic market. It is planned to be fully operational by spring 1976 and will produce some 100 million blades a year.

The production machinery being supplied by Wilkinson Sword will be built by its plant division at Acton and will be installed in the GDR factory by the company's own engineers. GDR personnel to operate the plant will be trained initially in the Wilkinson Sword factory at Cramlington in Northumberland. Later, a team of British engineers will work with them in setting up the plant and getting production underway.

This announcement follows the visit to London of Dr. Gerhard Beil, State Secretary in the Foreign Trade Ministry, who disclosed that as part of the GDR's next five-year plan, British companies were being invited to negotiate important contracts. The negotiations with Wilkinson Sword, which had been underway for some time, were conducted through the GDR foreign trade enterprise, WMW Export-Import, whose Director-General, Dr. J. Prescher, signed the preliminary contract at the end of last month.

This is the third such contract from Comecon countries obtained by Wilkinson Sword in the face of strong competition from other manufacturers. The first was from the Polish authorities and plant and equipment worth more than £1 million have been supplied to their factory in Lodz since it was set up in 1968. More recently, the company received a £3.5 million contract from the USSR to equip razor blade production plants in Leningrad and Moscow.

Overseas orders won by Marconi

Under the terms of a contract worth nearly £50,000, the latest television station to be built in the Republic of Yemen is to have studio equipment supplied by Marconi Communication Systems Ltd. The contract calls for a new station at Sana-a in the Yemen to be supplied with a comprehensive range of equipment based on the Marconi Mark V monochrome camera. Delivery will commence in January and the studio is expected to be operational by mid-1975.

Equipment to be supplied includes three Marconi Mark V black and white cameras with manual zoom and focus lenses, a Marconi B3724 vision mixer with special effects, distribution, monitoring and communication equipment, sound mixers and an extensive range of ancillaries.

The Mark V 4½ in. image orthicon camera is one of the most successful equipments in the world with sales to over 40 countries approaching the 500 mark, states Marconi. Designed for 'Hands-off' operation, the camera employs semiconductors throughout (except for its e.h.t. rectifiers and stabilisers), to produce stable, high quality pictures more efficiently and without the need for constant readjustment. Both compact and lightweight, it is the natural choice of broadcasting authorities whose first priority is simplicity of operation combined with a high standard of performance and reliability.

Radio Suisse Ltd. has taken delivery of its 17th and 18th Marconi type H1200 transmitter from Marconi Communication Systems Ltd. These latest two hf transmitters are installed at the Prangins station near Geneva, the original League of Nations radio station, which today carries traffic for the United Nations.

The H1200 30 kW transmitter is one item in the Marconi range of self-tuning equipments for high-grade, point-to-point hf radio communication. This self-contained equipment, which incorporates local and remote control facilities, has been designed to combine ease of operation with maximum reliability. Two of its most important characteristics are accurate antenna matching at all times, in spite of the changes in antenna impedance, which result from varying weather conditions and frequency-following servo tuning, providing correct tuning and loading within about 30 seconds.

The H1200 transmitter is a well-proven equipment in use throughout the world, Marconi states. In the case of Radio Suisse, 14 are now in use at the Prangins stations and four are in use at Münchenbuchsee.

Birmingham supplies seats for camel racing stadium

Spectator comfort for a new camel racing stadium in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, has been taken care of by a Birmingham company's supplying 300 seats from its wide range of polypropylene seating for indoor and outdoor use.

The seats, manufactured and supplied by the production design group, Frederick Restall Ltd., have now been installed in the stadium.

Consultants for the stadium were Brashier Lancaster Associates, London. Main contractors for the scheme were Messrs. Yahya Costain.

Nigerian contract for marine buoys

The latest order for marine navigation equipment received by AGA Navigation Aids of Brentford, valued at more than £100,000, brings the total number of buoys supplied to the Nigerian Ports Authority this year to 130 units. This includes four different types of buoy which are either of steel or plastic construction.

Included in the recent order are AGA BS-23 steel buoys designed for shallow and fast flowing waters which will be used to mark the estuary of the River Niger. AGA BS-52 buoys, also being supplied, have a diameter of 3 metres and an overall height of 6.8 metres. These 6-ton buoys have a large silhouette and will be located in open sea approach channels.

Two 16-ft. catamarans are also being supplied to the Nigerian Ports Authority for shallow locations where tidal flow is rapid.

The majority of the 130 buoys are of steel construction, although 27 glass fibre BS-41 buoys were delivered to Nigeria earlier this year. These are now located in open-sea locations and, manufactured from GRP, have the advantage of being easily serviced and repaired in the event of minor damage.

Servicing of all these buoys and catamarans will be undertaken by technicians of the Nigerian Ports Authority who are fully conversant with this type of marine navigation equipment. All the orders received from Nigeria this year have been negotiated through Crown Agents and the latest equipment will be delivered before the end of this year, AGA reports.

European Community Commentary

A Supplement to *Trade and Industry*

Number 8 December 1974

Consultations on EEC bankruptcy convention

A consultative document seeking views on the draft EEC Bankruptcy Convention has been sent to more than 70 interested organisations by a committee appointed by the then Secretary of State for Trade and Industry in July 1973 to study it.

The purpose of the document is to present to trade unions, employers' associations, representatives of commerce and industry and professional organisations and the public an analysis of the implications for Britain of the Convention and the main questions on which the committee must advise.

The document stresses the wide scope of the Convention. It applies to practically all forms of compulsory insolvent administration involving individuals, partnerships or companies. Because of the Convention's wide scope the Committee regards the consultative process as being very important.

'We may also stress,' says the document 'that the acceptance of the Convention will call for radical changes in the laws of these countries particularly in matters of bankruptcy and liquidation, but also in a number of questions of general law which assume importance in insolvency situations.'

The Convention, says the document, is based on a series of novel principles: they have wide implications, in jurisdiction, choice of law and recognition of judgements in bankruptcy and associated matters.

Among these new principles are rules for:

a bankruptcy order made in one contracting state to exclude such an order in any other:

that in such cases, the liquidator will have powers extending to all contracting states;

most disputed questions arising from bankruptcy will be a matter for the courts of the State of the bankruptcy and for the law of that State;

virtually automatic recognition and enforcement of judgements relating to such questions in other contracting States.

The document seeks views on the scope of the convention, jurisdiction to declare the debtors bankrupt, choice of law, preferential and secured debts, recognition and enforcement of judgements and Uniform Law.

The Committee's views as expressed in the document, it says, are necessarily provisional, and subject to revisions in the light of comments received. The deadline for comments is 31 March 1975.

The consultations are being made as a matter of urgency because, the Committee understands, the second round of discussions on the draft Convention will start in Brussels early next year: however the Government will not commit themselves until they have the considered advice of the Committee.

The EEC Bankruptcy Convention Advisory Committee was appointed on 27 July 1973, with the following terms of reference:

'To consider the terms of the draft EEC Bankruptcy Convention and to advise the Department upon the effect of the implementation of this Convention in its present terms and to recommend such modifications as they consider necessary and practicable.'

The legal basis of the Convention is Article 220 of the Treaty of Rome, which provides that member states shall enter into negotiations 'with a view to securing for the benefit of their nationals . . . the simplification of formalities governing the reciprocal recognition of judgements of courts or tribunals and of arbitration awards.'

Comments on the consultative document should be sent to the Committee's secretary, Mr. Trevor Traylor MBE. Department of Trade, 2-14 Bunhill Road, London EC1Y 8LL, by 31 March 1975.

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Impression of the new European warehouse under construction for Twinings – tea blenders established in Britain in 1706 – just outside Paris at Herblay on the main road to Le Havre. Scheduled to open in April 1975, it will cost over £¾ million to build and will provide 28,300 cubic m. of storage space – capable of housing around 2 million kg. of tea. As a result of the increasing popularity of speciality teas in Europe and Scandinavia, Twinings decided to build the depot in order to operate direct delivery by road to all major European markets. It is expected that the new warehouse will initially serve agents and customers in France, Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands, Denmark and Switzerland.

The Paris Summit meeting

The following communique was issued on completion of the meeting of Heads of Government of EEC Member States on 10 December:

1. The Heads of Government of nine states of the Community, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the President of the Commission, meeting in Paris at the invitation of the French President, examined the various problems confronting Europe. They took note of the reports drawn up by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and recorded the agreement reached by these ministers on various points raised in the reports.

2. Recognising the need for an overall approach to the internal problems involved in achieving European unity and the external problems facing Europe, the Heads of Government consider it essential to ensure progress and overall consistency in the activities of the Communities and in the work on political co-operation.

3. The Heads of Government have therefore decided to meet, accompanied by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, three times a year and, whenever necessary, in the Council of the Communities and in the context of political co-operation. The administrative secretariat will be provided for in an appropriate manner with due regard for existing practices and procedures.

In order to ensure consistency in Community activities and continuity of work, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, meeting in the Council of the Community, will act as initiators and co-ordinators. They may hold political co-operation meetings at the same time.

These arrangements do not in any way affect the rules and procedures laid down in the treaties or the provisions on political co-operation in the Luxembourg and Copenhagen reports. At the various meetings referred to in the preceding paragraphs the Commission will exercise the powers vested in it and play the part assigned to it by the above texts.

4. With a view to progress towards European unity, the Heads of Government reaffirm their determination gradually to adopt common positions and co-ordinate their diplomatic action in all areas of international affairs which affect the interests of the European Community. The President in office will be the spokesman for the Nine and will set out their views in international diplomacy. He will ensure that the necessary concertation always takes place in good time.

In view of the increasing role of political co-operation in the construction of Europe, the European Assembly must be more closely associated with the work of the Presidency, for example through replies to questions on political co-operation put to him by its members.

5. The Heads of Government consider it necessary to increase the solidarity of the Nine both by improving Community procedures and by developing new common policies in areas to be decided on and granting the necessary powers to the institutions.

6. In order to improve functioning of the Council of the Community, they consider that it is necessary to renounce the practice which consists of making agreement on all questions conditional on the unanimous consent of the Member States, whatever their respective positions may be regarding the conclusions reached in Luxembourg on 28 January 1966.

7. Greater latitude will be given to the permanent representatives so that only the most important political problems need be discussed in the Council. To this end, each Member State will take the measures it considers necessary to strengthen the role of the permanent representatives and involve them in preparing the national positions on European affairs.

8. Moreover, they agree on the advantage of making use of the provisions of the Treaty of Rome whereby the powers of implementation and management arising out of Community rules may be conferred on the Commission.

9. Co-operation between the Nine in areas outside the scope of the Treaty will be continued where it has already begun. It should be extended to other areas by bringing together the representatives of the Governments, meeting within the Council whenever possible.

10. A working party will be set up to study the possibility of establishing a passport union and, in anticipation of this, the introduction of a uniform passport.

If possible, this draft should be submitted to the Governments of the Member States before 31 December 1976. It will, in particular, provide for stage-by-stage harmonisation of legislation affecting aliens and for the abolition of passport control within the Community.

11. Another working party will be instructed to study the conditions and the timing under which the citizens of the nine Member States could be given special rights as members of the Community.

12. The heads of Government note that the election of the European Assembly by universal suffrage, one of the objectives laid down in the treaty, should be achieved as soon as possible. In this connection, they await with interest the proposals of the European Assembly, on which they wish the Council to act in 1976. On this assumption, elections by direct universal suffrage could take place at any time in or after 1978.

Since the European Assembly is composed of representatives of the peoples of the states united within the Community, each people must be represented in an appropriate manner.

The European Assembly will be associated with the achievement of European unity. The Heads of Government will not fail to take into consideration the points of view which, in October, 1972, they asked it to express on this subject.

The competence of the European Assembly will be extended, in particular by granting it certain powers in the Communities' legislative process.

Statement by the United Kingdom Delegation

The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom explained that Her Majesty's Government did not wish to prevent the Governments of the other eight Member States from making progress with the election of the European Assembly by universal suffrage.

HM Government could not themselves take up a position on the proposal before the process of renegotiation had been completed and the results of renegotiation submitted to the British people.

Statement by the Danish Delegation

The Danish delegation is unable at this stage to commit itself to introducing elections by universal suffrage by 1978.

13. The Heads of Government note that the process of transforming the whole complex of relations between the Member States in accordance with the decision taken in Paris in October 1972, has already started. They are determined to make further progress in this direction.

In this connection, they consider that the time has come for the Nine to agree as soon as possible on an overall concept of European union. Consequently, in accordance with the requests made by the Paris meeting of Heads of State and of Government in October 1972, they confirm the importance which they attach to the reports to be made by the Community institutions.

They request the European Assembly, the Commission and the Court of Justice to bring the submission of their reports forward to before the end of June 1975. They agreed to invite Mr. Tindemans, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Belgium, to submit a comprehensive report to the Heads of Government before the end of 1975, on the basis of the reports received from the institutions and of consultations which he is to have with the Governments and with a wide range of pubic opinion in the Community.

Economic and monetary union

14. The Heads of Government having noted that internal and international difficulties have prevented in 1973 and 1974 the accomplishment of expected progress on the road to EMU, affirm that in this field their will has not weakened and that their objective has not changed since the Paris conference.

Convergence of economic policies

15. The Heads of Government discussed the economic situation in the world and in the Community.

16. They noted that the increase in energy prices is adding to inflationary tendencies and balance of payments deficits and intensifying the threat of general recession. The resulting alterations in the terms of trade are forcing the member states to redirect their production structures.

17. The Heads of Government reaffirm that the aim of their economic policy continues to be to combat inflation and maintain employment. The co-operation of both sides of industry will be essential if this policy is to succeed. They emphasise that, in the present circumstances, high priority must be given to economic revival in conditions of stability, ie action aimed both at preventing a general economic recession and restoring stability. This must not involve any recourse to protectionist measures which, by setting up a chain reaction, could jeopardise economic revival.

Member States which have a balance of payments surplus must implement an economic policy of stimulating domestic demand and maintaining a high level of employment, without creating new inflationary conditions. Such an atttitude would make it easier for countries which have considerable balance of payments deficits to follow a policy which will ensure a satisfactory level of employment, stabilisation of costs and an improvement in their external trade balance without resorting to protectionist measures.

18. In the context of the effort to be made by countries having a surplus, the Heads of Government greet the economic policy measures already adopted by the Netherlands Government as a step in the right direction. They also note with satisfaction the short-term economic programme which the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany intends to follow, particularly as regards stimulating public and private investment, and the fact that the Belgian Government intends to follow suit.

They all express satisfaction at the efforts made by the countries having a balance of payments deficit to maintain their competitive position so as to achieve a more satisfactory balance of payments and to improve the level of employment.

19. While acknowledging the special situation of each of the member states of the Community – which makes a uniform policy inappropriate – the Heads of Government stress that it is absolutely necessary to agree on the policies to be adopted. This convergence will be meaningful only if it works towards Community solidarity and is based on effective permanent consultation machinery. The Ministers for Economic Affairs and Finance will be responsible, within the framework of Community procedures, for implementing these guidelines.

20. It is obvious that all these policies will be really effective only in so far as the world's major industrialised countries succeed in arresting incipient recessionary tendencies. In this connection, they note with satisfaction the account given by the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany of his talks with the President of the United States.

They desire that, at his forthcoming meeting with President Ford, the President of the French Republic should, on behalf of the Community, stress the importance of convergence between the economic policies of all industrialised countries along the lines indicated above.

They also wish the Community and its Member States to do the same during the forthcoming international consultations and in the appropriate international bodies.

21. The Community will continue to contribute to the harmonious expansion of world trade, especially in relation to developing countries, and in order to do so will take a constructive part in the GATT trade negotiations which it hopes to see actively continued in the near future.

Regional Policy

22. The Heads of Government decided that the European regional development fund, designed to correct the principal regional imbalances in the Community resulting notably from agricultural predominance, industrial change and structural underemployment, will be put into operation by the institutions of the Community with effect from 1 January 1975.

23. The fund will be endowed with 300 mua in 1975, with 500 mua for each of the years 1976 and 1977, ie 1,300 mua.

24. This total sum of 1,300 mua will be financed up to a level of 150 mua by credits not presently utilised from EAGGF (guidance section).

The resources of the fund will be divided along the lines envisaged by the Commission:

Belgium: 1.5 per cent; Denmark: 1.3 per cent; France: 15 per cent; Ireland: 6 per cent; Italy: 40 per cent; Luxembourg: 0.1 per cent; Netherlands: 1.7 per cent; Federal Republic of Germany: 6.4 per cent; United Kingdom: 28 per cent.

Ireland will in addition be given another 6 mua which will come from a reduction in the shares of the other Member States with the exception of Italy.

Employment problems

25. The effort needed to combat inflation and the risks of recession and unemployment as described above must accord with the imperatives of a progressive and equitable social policy if it is to receive support and co-operation from both sides of industry, both at national and Community level.

In this respect, the Heads of Government emphasise that the economic and social committee can play an important role in associating both sides of industry in the definition of the Community's economic and social aims.

Above all, vigorous and co-ordinated action must be taken at Community level to deal with the problem of employment. This will require the Member States, in conjunction with the organisations concerned, to co-ordinate their employment policies in an appropriate manner and to set priority targets.

26. When the time is ripe, the Council of the Community will consider, in the light of experience and with due regard to the problem of the regions and categories of workers most affected by employment difficulties, whether and to what extent it will be necessary to increase the resources of the social fund.

27. Being convinced that in this period of economic difficulty special emphasis should be placed on social measures, the heads of government reaffirm the importance which they attach to implementation of the measures listed in the social action programme approved by the Council in its resolution of 21 January 1974.

28. The Heads of Government make it their objective to harmonise the degree of social security afforded by the various Member States, while maintaining progress but without requiring that the social systems obtaining in all Member States should be identical.

Energy

29. The Heads of Government discussed the energy problem and, in this connection, the related major financial problems created for the community and for the wider world.

30. They further noted that the ministers of energy of the Community countries are due to meet on 17 December.

31. The Heads of Government, aware of the paramount importance which the energy problem has in world economy, have discussed the possibilities for co-operation between oil exporting and oil importing countries, on which subject they heard a report from the Federal Chancellor.

32. The Heads of Government attach very great importance to the forthcoming meeting between the President of the United States and the President of the French Republic.

33. The Heads of Government, referring to the Council resolution of 17 September 1974, have invited the Community institutions to work out and to implement a common energy policy in the shortest possible time.

Britain's membership

34. The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom indicated the basis on which Her Majesty's Government approached the negotiations regarding Britain's continued membership of the Community and set out the particular issues to which the Government attached the highest importance.

35. The Heads of Government recall the statement made during the accession negotiations by the Community to the effect that 'if unacceptable situations were to arise, the very life of the Community would make it imperative for the institutions to find equitable solutions'.

36. They confirm that the system of 'own resources' represents one of the fundamental elements of the economic integration of the Community.

37. They invite the institutions of the Community (the Council and the Commission) to set up as soon as possible a correcting mechanism of a general application which, in the framework of the system of 'own resources' and in harmony with its normal functioning, based on objective criteria and taking into consideration in particular the suggestions made to this effect by the British Government, could prevent during the period of convergence of the economies of the Member States, the possible development of situations unacceptable for a Member State and incompatible with the smooth working of the Community.

EEC – your questions answered

Below we publish answers to some of the questions of general interest which businessmen put to the Department of Industry's EEC Information Unit in the past month.

The Unit was set up specifically to help the businessman wanting facts about the EEC and the way its policy, procedures and legislation could affect his business operations and decisions. It can be contacted by a telephone call to 01-215 4301 (six lines), or by writing to the EEC Information Unit, Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Q. I would like some information about the EEC's Generalised Preference Scheme for developing countries in 1975. My main interest is in the treatment of imports from the Asian Commonwealth countries and Hong Kong in particular.

A. The EEC Council of Ministers recently agreed a number of improvements which will benefit developing countries, including Commonwealth countries in Asia next year. The most important of these reduces the number of products subject to particular restrictions. In addition there is to be an overall increase of about 15 per cent in the total value of trade which is eligible to benefit from the scheme.

Other tariff concessions represent a further step in the implementation of the Community's Joint Declaration of Intent towards the Asian Commonwealth made at the time of Britain's accession to the Community. There are also small additions to the coverage of agricultural products.

With regard to Hong Kong specifically, it has been agreed that the 1975 scheme will include tariff preferences for rubber and plastic footwear and that the Community will re-examine next year the question of including Hong Kong textiles in the 1976 Scheme. The Council has also agreed to a fundamental review early in 1975 of the Community's strategy for future development of the Scheme.

The GSP offer for 1975 will be published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* and an article appears in *Trade and Industry* on page 711 of the 26 December issue.

Q. Some of the goods which used to be traded duty free with EFTA are now dutiable. Can you explain this?

A. Although duty-free trade between the UK and her former EFTA partners has to a large extent been maintained, there are some exceptions:

1 Certain goods, primarily those with an agricultural content, which were covered either by the EFTA Convention or by bilateral agreements between EFTA countries, are not covered by some of the Free Trade Agreements. For these goods the UK and Denmark concluded a protocol for reimposing tariffs over a transitional period. On most products this process began on 1 January 1974 with Denmark and the UK charging 40 per cent of the EEC's Common Customs Tariff on imports from EFTA and the EFTA countries charging 40 per cent on their respective MFN rates of duty for imports from the UK and Denmark.

2 The manufacturing process which conferred originating status under EFTA origin rules may, in some case, be insufficient to qualify under the FTA rules of origin (see *Trade and Industry*, 21 December 1972). These 'origin excluded' products are now subject to the full rate of duty.

3 Paper products in chapters 48 and 49 of the BN (with the exception of 48.09) are considered to be 'sensitive' for import into the EEC from EFTA. For these products the UK and Denmark are progressively raising import duties until 1 July 1977. After that date duties will be progressively reduced and abolished on 1 January 1984.

Q. I am responsible for my company's training programme and need publications, films and other audio visual aids on European affairs. Can you refer me to a useful source?

A. The Department of Education and Science has produced a publication *Sources of Information on International Organisations 1974* which should give you the required information. A large section of the booklet deals with European institutions such as the European Communities, EFTA, Council of Europe and Western European Union. A brief description of their functions is followed by lists of publications and materials available from each.

Another section lists some of the most important UK organisations with an interest in European affairs. There is a detailed list of useful addresses.

Copies of *Sources of Information on International Organisations 1974* are available free of charge from the Information Division, Room 1/27, Department of Education and Science, Elizabeth House, York Road, London SE1 7PH.

Q. I understand that the Common Customs Tariff of the Community is being reduced next year on certain items as a result of GATT negotiations. Has the new Tariff been published yet?

A. Yes. The CCT for 1975 has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*, Vol 17, no. L295. This is available from HMSO price £2.50, SBN 11 934 253 7.

Inquiries about tariff changes resulting from these GATT negotiations should be made to Tariff Division Room 308, Department of Trade, Kingsgate House, London SW1E 6SJ (Tel. 01-215 3070).

EEC information for businessmen: new free booklet

'EEC – Your Questions Answered', a new 80 page booklet published by the EEC Information Unit, contains answers to businessmen's inquiries on a wide range of EEC subjects. These include trade with EFTA and other countries associated with the Community, customs procedures and documentation, tariffs, market information and non-tariff barriers to trade. Some of these questions and answers have already appeared in *European Community Commentary* and have been updated where necessary; others have not previously been published.

The booklet also contains background information about how the Community works as well as a list of countries with association or trade arrangements with the EEC, a glossary of more commonly used initials and abbreviations, public holidays in EEC and EFTA countries in 1975, a check list of draft and adopted directives on technical standards, lists of publications, useful addresses and contacts both in Europe and the UK.

Copies are available, free of charge, from the EEC Information Unit, Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, tel. 01-215 4301 (6 lines).

Catalogues of Government Publications

Her Majesty's Stationery Office offer their customers a comprehensive service which will enable them to judge whether any other titles in the vast output of Government Publications would help them in their work or leisure. Full information about this service can be obtained by sending a postcard to Publicity Section, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Room C46, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London, EC1P 1BN, asking for the CATALOGUE SERVICE LEAFLET.

The Community's Business Co-operation Centre

Looking for a business partner elsewhere in the Community? . . . You might find him here

The Community's Business

The Commission of the European Communities set up the Business Co-operation Centre last year to encourage co-operation between firms in different Member States wishing to increase competitiveness and respond to the opportunities opened up by access to the Community's markets. Co-operation is defined as the pooling of one or more activities of the partner firms; for example, in research and development, supplies, production, marketing and sales and management.

A firm seeking the Centre's help will be asked to provide certain information about itself, and to define exactly what type of partner and what type of co-operation it wants. All the information supplied, and any inquiries received, are treated as strictly confidential, and no names are revealed without the agreement of all parties. The Centre will search its files for a suitable partner, and, if the application cannot be matched with an offer already registered, will, if the firm agrees, circulate a summary of the firm's requirements, with no names mentioned, to the 'correspondents' which it has in every country of the Community.

It is as one of the Centre's correspondents in this country that we reproduce the latest batch of requests for co-operation below. Readers wishing to obtain further information should write direct to the Centre at the following address, quoting the reference number of the request(s) in which they are interested: Business Co-operation Centre, rue Archimède 17, B-1040 Brussels. The Centre makes no charge for its services.

Reference BRE/1238/312

Italian metal manufacturer with works producing plates, wires, cables and tubes in copper and brass, with another works for the stamping of these products and the manufacture of finished taps, valves and joints; turnover 13,500 million Lire, 600 employees, wishes to co-operate in the UK with a company of the same size or larger with a complementary production, mainly with a view towards a specialisation in the sector of brass foundings. A minority participation in the Italian firm, a reciprocal participation or merger are possible.
Languages: Italian, French, English.

Reference BRE/2721/374

German manufacturer of an exclusive range of precision timepieces, with well-developed marketing network in West Germany, modern machinery for mass production of metal and plastic precision components, own toolroom, many years' export experience in Europe and overseas (50 per cent of production exported), turnover DM 15 million, 270 employees; seeks contact with company of similar size in UK, France, Denmark or Italy engaged in precision mechanics, electrical engineering or electronics, with a view to collaboration in marketing (reciprocal handling of sales in home country) and production. Co-operation could be on an informal basis or in form of a joint venture or could involve unilateral reciprocal investment.
Languages: German, English, French.

Reference BRE/2475/425

French group producing, buying and distributing quality wines, ordinary table wines and alcoholic drinks, to wholesalers, retailers' co-operatives, departmental stores, super- and hypermarkets, cafés and restaurants, with a turnover of 100 million FF and 300 employees, seeks in Great Britain a partner of comparable size in the same or a complementary branch and supplying the same types of customers, in order to set up a joint subsidiary for distribution (possibly including bottling) in the partner's territory. The French firm would be able to assume the distribution in its own markets of the products of the partner.
Languages: French, English.

Reference BRE/2631/837

Dutch multidisciplinary organisation of consulting engineers, having branches in Belgium and Great Britain, total staff of 450, turnover 15 million guilders, seeks, with a view to completing package of disciplines and geographical markets, association with consulting engineering firms in Belgium, Germany, Great Britain, France and Denmark, active, as consulting engineers and maybe as contractors, in harbour and waterway engineering (construction and facilities, river regulation, unloading and warehousing facilities etc.) and foundation engineering (foundations, dams, storage yards, structural

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Breng Uw bedrijf naar Barnsley
daar is plaats voor U.
Bring your industry to Barn
there is room for you here

Inquiries from a number of companies in Europe interested in Barnsley as a development area were received by the representation of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council at the Europort '74 industrial exhibition in Amsterdam. European firms expressing interest included marine engineers, valve manufacturers, Dutch project engineers and American consultants. The stand was arranged by Barnsley Development Centre. 'Militant promotion of this nature,' states Harry Spain, industrial development officer, 'has already brought a wide variety of new industries to the area and provided jobs for dozens of local workers.' The picture shows a French visitor on the left speaking to (from left to right) Mr. Spain; Councillor Arnold Storey, vice-chairman of the Property and Development Committee; and the Mayor of Barnsley, Councillor Jim Oldham.

Customs notices of interest to exporters

The following Public Notices issued by HM Customs and Excise relate to various aspects of export procedure. Copies of these Notices may be obtained from the local Officer of Customs and Excise, whose address appears in the telephone directory and to whom all inquiries should be addressed, or from the Secretary, HM Customs and Excise, 39-41 Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE.

7	Drawback on mixed or blended beers when exported or deposited in bonded warehouse.
17 (May 1973)	Arrangements for preferential trade between the Channel Islands and the United Kingdom.
49	Temporary importations: international co-operation.
104	Temporary importations and exportations under ATA and ECS Carnets.
112	Authorised hours for Customs work at ports, airports and in long rooms and charges for attendance given at the request of merchants.
112A	Charges for attendance given at private premises at the request of merchants.
118	Samples imported for promoting export trade.
132A	Sugar: cessation of Import Duties and Imposition of Levies under the Common Agricultural Policy of the EEC and the Sugar Board Charge.
172	Hydrocarbon Oils: drawback of duty.
207	Re-imported goods: relief from Customs duty and Value Added Tax.
210	Temporary importation of films and similar goods for copying, printing, etc., to fulfil export orders.
221	Process Inwards Relief and Pre-financing of export refunds on products for process.
221A	Section 7 relief: changes in procedure.
223	Export relief on goods exported in the same state as at import ('Same state section 7 relief').
224	The examination of bottled beer, exported on drawback, at the premises of a licensed brewer for sale, or beer dealer, as an alternative to examination on the quay.
241	European Economic Community: Compensatory, Levy and Addendum thereto.
275	Documentation of Exports for Statistical Purposes.
290	Export of personal and household effects.
291	Claims for drawback on goods exported where there has been a variation in the duty rate.
300	Export reliefs scheduling scheme.
703	VAT – Exports. (Revised November 1973)
704	VAT – Retail Export Schemes. (Revised November 1973)
705	VAT – Tax free sales of motor vehicles to tourists, etc.
750	Community transit – general.
750A	Community transit – list of Offices of Departure, Transit and Destination and Guarantee Offices in the United Kingdom, etc.
750B	Extension of the Community Transit procedures to Austria and Switzerland.
751	Notes on completing Community transit forms T1, T2 and T3.
752	Free circulation of goods in the European Communities.
753	Community transit – the simplified procedure for goods carried by rail.
754	Documentation for fish caught by British fishing vessels.
755	Community transit – special control procedures.
756	Instructions on the use of loading lists as descriptive parts of forms T1, T2 or T3.
774	Hydrocarbon Oils Customs Duties: Additions of *Ad Valorem* Protective Element.
800	EEC Common Agricultural Policy: Customs procedures in respect of export refunds and export licences.
810	EEC Preferences – Free Trade Agreement between the EEC and EFTA countries.
810A	EEC Preferences – EFTA countries. Simplification of the documentation system described in Notice 810. Introduction of universal form of movement certificate EUR 1.
812, 812A	EEC Preferences – Turkey.
817 (June 1973)	EEC Preferences – Tunisia.
818 (June 1973)	EEC Preferences – Egypt.
819 (May 1973)	EEC Preferences – Cyprus.
821	EEC Preferences – simplified procedure for sending evidence to EEC customers about the origin of goods.
830	Arrangements between Denmark and United Kingdom.

The Business Co-operation Centre

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engineering, cut and cover transport etc.); the partner should have a staff between 50 and 100; the objective is a close association, whereby financial integration is to be considered.

Languages: Dutch, English, French, German.

Reference BRE/1518/314
French structural metalwork engineering firm producing a range of about 30 standard buildings; any industrial or commercial complex designed or erected to order; long experience in the construction of cold-storage warehouses (registered trademark for construction and insulation technique); current production capacity 1,200 tons per month in roofed workshops with 13,000 m.² floor space; room for expansion; turnover FF 29 million; 225 employees; large design office; seeks co-operation with German or British firm of similar size engaged in complementary activity (eg, handling or civil-engineering equipment) with a view to exchange of sales networks and/or specialisation of production, exchange of know-how, marketing; reciprocal investment possible.
Languages: French, English.

Publications on the European Communities

Listed below are official publications on European Communities' matters issued during the period 26 July-2 December 1974. All can be obtained from Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Orders, quoting the Standard Book Number (which in the list is given in brackets after each title), should be sent to HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH. The price inclusive of postage is given in parenthesis at the end of each reference.

1. Parliamentary Publications

Cmnd. 5717. Statement of Change in Immigration Rules for Control on Entry (EEC and other non-Commonwealth Nationals). 27 June 1974. (Home Office). (10 157170 4). 4pp. 6p (9½p).

Cmnd. 5718. Statement of Change in Immigration Rules for Control on Entry (EEC and other non-Commonwealth Nationals). 27 June 1974. (Home Office). (10 157180 1). 2pp. 3p (6½p).

Cmnd. 5656. Industrial Property. Miscellaneous No. 24 (1974). Convention on the Grant of European Patents (European Patent Convention) with related documents. Munich, 5 October 1973. (The Convention has not yet been ratified by the United Kingdom.) (10 156560 7). 152pp. 97p (£1.06).

Cmnd. 5736. European Communities. Treaty Series No. 47 (1974). Agreement between the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Coal and Steel Community, of the one part, and of the Portuguese Republic, of the other part with Final Act. Brussels, 22 July 1972. (The Agreement entered into force on 1 January 1974.) The Agreement was previously published as Miscellaneous No. 45 (1972). Cmnd. 5151. (10 157360 X). 24pp. 17p (20½p).

Cmnd. 5740. European Communities. Treaty Series No. 54 (1974). Decision of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Communities on the Provisional Location of the European Monetary Co-operation Fund. Brussels, 24 July 1973. (The Decision was previously published as Miscellaneous No. 38 (1973), Cmnd. 5479). (10 147400 2). 4pp. 6p (9½p).

Cmnd. 5742. European Communities No. 12 (1974). Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Arab Republic of Yemen on the Supply of Common Wheat as food aid. Brussels, 15 November 1973. (The Agreement entered into force on 15 November 1973). (10 157420 7) 6pp. 9p (12½p).

Cmnd. 5744. European Communities No. 10 (1974). Agreement between the European Economic Communities and the Republic of India on Trade in Jute Products. Brussels, 17 December 1973. (The Agreement entered into force on 1 April 1974.) (10 157440 1). 8pp. 9p (12½p).

Cmnd. 5737. European Communities. Treaty Series No. 49 (1974). Agreement between the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community and the Swiss Confederation (with Final Act and Additional Agreement for Liechtenstein). Brussels, 22 July 1973. (The Agreement and Additional Agreement entered into force on 1 January 1974.) The Agreement was previously published as Miscellaneous No. 47 (1972). Cmnd. 5152. (10 157370 7). 20pp. 15p (18½p).

Cmnd. 5746. European Communities No. 9 (1974). Commercial Co-operation Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of India. Brussels, 17 December 1973. (The Agreement entered into force on 1 April 1974.) (10 157460 6). 10pp. 10p (14½)p.

Cmnd. 5747. European Communities No. 11 (1974). Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of India on Trade in Coir Products. Brussels, 17 December 1973. (The Agreement entered into force on 1 April 1974.) (10 157470 3). 6pp. 9p (12½p).

Cmnd. 5790. European Communities No. 40 (1974). Development in the European Communities. March-October 1974. (10 157900 4). 20pp. 20p (23½p).

Cmnd. 5669. European Communities No. 5 (1974). Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Finland, with Final Act and Exchanges of Letters. Brussels, 5 October 1973. (The Agreement entered into force on 1 January 1974). (10 156690 5). 152pp. 97p (£1.06).

Cmnd. 5694. European Communities No. 13 (1974). Agreement establishing an Association between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Cyprus, and Protocol laying down certain provisions relating to the Agreement consequent on the Accession of new Member States to the European Economic Community. Brussels, 19 December 1974. (With related documents). (The Agreement and Protocol entered into force on 1 June 1973.) (10 156940 8). 116pp. 79p (86p).

House of Lords Paper 98. 4th Report from the Select Committee of the House of Lords on the European Communities. (10 409875 9). 20pp. 38p (41½p).

House of Lords Paper 130. 7th Report from the Select Committee of the House of Lords on the European Communities. (10 413075 X). 10pp. 14p (17½p).

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Government Publications in the Midlands

from

Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 258/259 Broad Street, Birmingham B1 2HE

Economic Indicators of the EEC

These tables have been prepared for the convenience of users who do not have access to the sources themselves; international publications (as indicated) have been used, supplemented by later reports where possible. In addition to the Member States of the EEC, the United States and Japan have been included for comparison.

The form of presentation adopted – indicators by subject – is for convenience only, and it must not be assumed that the indicators in the same table for different countries are strictly comparable. An attempt has been made to indicate major differences of definition, but the coverage and methods of collection vary considerably; this is partly due to different administrative procedures in various countries. Fuller details may be obtained from the sources indicated, and from the national publications of the countries concerned.

An extensive bibliography – 'Sources of Statistics: 2. The European Economic Community' – which lists publications in the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library of the Department of Trade, is obtainable on request to the library at Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (Tel: 01-248 5757, ext. 368). 'Statistical News' No. 21 (May 1973), published by the Central Statistical Office, contains a selected bibliography of statistical publications of the Commission of the European Communities.

TABLE 1 **Industrial Production** (Excluding construction) Seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium	Luxem-bourg	France[1]	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy[4]	Nether-lands	United Kingdom	EEC[3,4]	*United States*	*Japan*
Weights in EEC	3.8	0.3	23.5	36.5	0.7	12.6	4.4	18.2	100.0	—	—
Weights in total	1.5	0.1	9.0	14.0	0.2	4.9	1.7	7.0	36.4	*48.4*	*13.1*
1968	88	88	84	83	90	91	81	96	87	*99*	*74*
1969	97	100	94	94	97	94	91	100	95	*104*	*88*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	103	99	104	102	105	100	107	100	102	*100*	*103*
1972	109	103	115	106	109	104	116	102	108	*108*	*110*
1973	115	115	120	114	120	114	125	111	115	*118*	*129*
1972 1st quarter	107	97	112	103	106	103	113	97	105	*103*	*106*
2nd quarter	109	102	113	105	106	104	115	102	107	*107*	*108*
3rd quarter	107	104	116	105	110	102	116	103	108	*109*	*111*
4th quarter	114	108	120	110	114	108	120	106	112	*113*	*116*
1973 1st quarter	115	115	118	113	120	105	122	110	113	*115*	*124*
2nd quarter	113	112	120	114	119	115	123	110	115	*117*	*128*
3rd quarter	114	114	122	113	119	118	125	111	116	*119*	*131*
4th quarter	117	120	122	116	121	117	129	110	117	*119*	*135*
1974 1st quarter	124	125	125	115	128	122	130	104	117	*117*	*132*
2nd quarter		119	126	116		124	131	110	119	*118*	*129*
3rd quarter			127 (e)					112		*117*	*125*
1973 April	114	111	116	114		112	123	109	114	*116*	*126*
May	115	113	123	113		114	123	109	115	*117*	*129*
June	111	112	121	114		118	123	110	116	*118*	*129*
July	114	115	123	109		120	122	111	115	*119*	*129*
August	113	114	123	115		117	126	110	117	*119*	*131*
September	115	115	120	116		118	127	111	117	*119*	*132*
October	116	116	127	115		118	130	112	117	*119*	*135*
November	120	126	123	116		117	129	111	118	*119*	*136*
December	113	117	119	116		117	128	106	116	*119*	*134*
1974 January	127	125	125	114		124	130	100	116	*118*	*133*
February	125	128	125	117		121	131	104	118	*117*	*133*
March	121	121	123	114		122	131	107	117	*116*	*131*
April	126	118	124	114		126	130	109	118	*117*	*129*
May	127	117	126	114		122	132	109	118	*118*	*132*
June	123	121	127	119		125	132	111	121	*118*	*127*
July		121	128	112		129 (e)	129	112		*118*	*128*
August		117	128	112				112		*117*	*123*
September			125 (e)					111		*118*	*124*
October										*117*	*122*
% change latest three months:											
On previous three months	+1.6	+0.8	+1.3	+0.3	+5.8	+1.9	+0.3	+1.8	+1.7	*−0.9*	*−4.9*
On a year earlier	+17.5	+5.3	+4.1	+1.5	+6.7	+6.8	+6.8	+0.9	+3.5	*−1.5*	*−7.9*

[1]Excluding clothing, wood products and furniture.
[2]Revised figures for Italy from beginning of 1973.
[3]Mining and manufacturing only.
(e) Estimated
[4]Excluding Denmark.
Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'

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TABLE 2 **Unemployment** seasonally adjusted

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium[1,2]	Denmark[1,3]	France[2,4]	German F.R.[5]	Ireland[1]	Italy[6]	Netherlands[2,5]	United Kingdom[5]	*United States*[6]	*Japan*[7]
1968	147	163	97	218	88	113	147	95	*69*	*108*
1969	120	129	85	120	86	108	115	94	*69*	*104*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	100	125	129	126	100	100	135	129	*122*	*111*
1972	123	125	145	166	114	114	235	142	*118*	*119*
1973	130	84	150	189	104	109	239	102	*105*	*107*
1972 1st quarter	114	155	142	143	114	106	228	149	*123*	*119*
2nd quarter	120	139	146	181	114	113	228	147	*120*	*120*
3rd quarter	125	115	148	192	117	121	241	141	*118*	*122*
4th quarter	130	89	145	176	114	117	243	132	*113*	*117*
1973 1st quarter	125	63	140	141	107	107	243	117	*108*	*110*
2nd quarter	127	104	144	187	103	133	237	106	*106*	*108*
3rd quarter	132	90	154	214	106	100	237	99	*105*	*108*
4th quarter	133	79	158	254	102	96	239	86	*104*	*102*
1974 1st quarter	131	79	168	278	102	86	270	96	*115*	*106*
2nd quarter	137	134	169	383	107	87	268	97	*114*	*112*
3rd quarter	148	209	181	483			301	106	*123 (e)*	
1973 June	128	105	145	186	105		235	104	*105*	*108*
July	131	107	153	196	105	100	237	102	*103*	*107*
August	131	90	157	203	105		237	99	*103*	*110*
September	134	88	153	208	105		235	95	*108*	*106*
October	137	80	156	224	102	96	235	90	*100*	*106*
November	132	78	158	241	102		235	86	*104*	*104*
December	131	78	161	279	102		248	83	*107*	*96*
1974 January	131	82	166	250	105	86	270	94	*116*	*105*
February	131	78	168	268	102		267	97	*116*	*105*
March	131	78	170	315	105		270	96	*113*	*107*
April	134	94	167	360	105	87	265	96	*111*	*110*
May	135	147	168	374	105		267	96	*115*	*112*
June	141	162	172	415	112		272	99	*116*	*113*
July	145	162	176	442	110		291	102	*119*	
August	148	201	177	480			304	107	*119*	
September	152	262	190	527			309	108	*132* (e)	
October			214	564 (e)				107	*147* (e)	
November				580 (e)				107	*153* (e)	
Rate %	2.7	2.5	2.6	3.2	4.0	2.7	3.0	2.4	*7.2*	*1.1*
% change latest three months										
On previous three months	+8.6	+54.6	+12.7	+25.1	+4.6	+1.3	+12.4	+4.4	*+22.1*	*+4.9*
On a year earlier	+12.5	+19.4	+24.5	+148.3	+4.6	−34.2	+27.6	+19.5	*+38.4*	*+3.6*

Note: Figures of total unemployment and unemployment rates are very sensitive to the particular measures used and the sources from which they are obtained. The figures in this table to a large extent reflect the different administrative systems and social-security provisions of the countries concerned.

[1] Insured unemployed. [2] Change of basis during period. [3] Monthly data are weekly averages. [4] Unfilled applications. [5] Registered unemployed.
[6] Based on results of sample survey. [7] Unemployment-insurance beneficiaries.
[8] Numbers in latest month available as % of total employees (UK) and of total labour force (others). (e) estimated. Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'

TABLE 3 **Exports (fob)** Special trade.[1] seasonally adjusted

US$ million[8]

	Belgium/ Luxembourg	Denmark[2]	France	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy	Netherlands	United Kingdom[2]	EEC	*United States*[2]	*Japan*[2]
1968	8,160	2,580	12,708	24,840	792	10,188	8,340	15,348	82,956	*34,416*	*12,972*
1969	10,068	2,952	15,024	29,052	888	11,724	9,960	17,520	97,200	*37,992*	*15,984*
1970	11,592	3,288	17,940	34,188	1,032	13,188	11,772	19,356	112,356	*43,224*	*19,320*
1971	12,081	3,609	20,592	39,009	1,308	15,177	13,953	22,356	128,084	*44,211*	*23,994*
1972	15,995	4,330	25,739	46,208	1,610	18,535	16,386	24,340	153,152	*49,667*	*28,511*
1973	22,369	6,119	35,948	67,487	2,122	22,329	23,867	30,525	211,033	*71,465*	*36,853*
1972 1st quarter	3,582	1,056	5,913	11,025	369	4,368	3,945	6,044	36,302	*12,045*	*6,675*
2nd quarter	3,821	1,085	6,337	11,472	385	4,487	4,149	6,378	38,114	*11,676*	*6,656*
3rd quarter	3,919	1,055	6,445	11,270	413	4,556	4,025	5,389	37,072	*12,529*	*7,261*
4th quarter	4,290	1,136	7,082	12,420	436	5,165	4,267	6,529	41,325	*13,505*	*7,891*
1973 1st quarter	4,721	1,322	7,630	14,074	467	4,279	5,573	6,865	44,931	*15,335*	*8,266*
2nd quarter	5,273	1,409	8,665	16,106	509	5,170	5,872	7,672	50,676	*16,775*	*8,752*
3rd quarter	6,302	1,729	9,931	18,849	547	6,212	6,123	8,059	57,775	*18,318*	*9,336*
4th quarter	6,073	1,661	9,889	18,478	599	6,669	6,360	7,929	57,651	*20,409*	*10,499*
1974 1st quarter	6,181	1,805	10,320	20,641	591	6,375	7,276	8,326	61,514	*22,319*	*11,273*
2nd quarter	7,449	1,920	11,185	23,045	642	6,991	8,578	9,912	69,722	*24,220*	*13 914*
3rd quarter		1,996	12,014	22,743		8,334 (e)	8,398 (e)	10,477		*25,196*	*14,645*
1973 June	1,772	496	3,101	5,434	175	2,031	2,052	2,683	17,744	*5,726*	*2,923*
July	2,007	593	3,369	6,008	179	2,147	2,069	2,652	19,024	*5,860*	*3,167*
August	2,170	485	3,228	6,456	185	1,966	1,960	2,660	19,110	*6,044*	*2,960*
September	2,125	651	3,334	6,385	183	2,098	2,094	2,747	19,617	*6,414*	*3,209*
October	2,102	563	3,311	6,766	201	2,054	2,268	2,653	19,918	*6,584*	*3,280*
November	1,885	532	3,394	6,474	186	1,958	2,193	2,703	19,319	*6,871*	*3,689*
December	2,086	566	3,184	5,239	212	2,657	1,897	2,573	18,414	*6,954*	*3,530*
1974 January	1,926	530	3,440	6,971	178	1,902	2,199	2,433	19,579	*7,111*	*3,626*
February	1,991	633	3,375	6,757	207	2,140	2,495	2,863	20,461	*7,606*	*3,975*
March	2,264	642	3,505	6,913	205	2,333	2,532	3,030	21,474	*7,674*	*3,672*
April	2,451	603	3,634	7,683	212	2,402	2,786	3,221	22,992	*8,234*	*4,332*
May	2,570	688	3,833	8,594	205	2,192	2,989	3,317	24,388	*7,630*	*4,793*
June	2,428	629	3,718	6,788	225	2,397	2,803	3,374	22,342	*8,357*	*4,767*
July	2,620 (e)	646	4 158	7,570	240	3,081	3,220	3,446		*8,307*	*4,909*
August		653	3,799	7,817	221	2,584	2,655 (e)	3,480		*8,370*	*5,148*
September		697 (e)	4,057 (e)	7,422		2,669 (e)	2,523 (e)	3,551		*8,286*	*4,588 (e)*
October			3,793 (e)	7,636 (e)				3,404		*8,665*	
% change in dollar terms latest three months											
On previous three months	+13.6	+4.0	−0.5	−0.3	+10.3	+19.2	−2.1	+2.9	+13.3	*+4.2*	*+5.4*
On a year earlier	+38.0	+15.4	+18.0	+16.7	+27.3	+34.2	+37.2	+29.5	+37.6	*+33.0*	*+56.9*
% change in national currencies latest three months											
On previous three months	+8.2	+5.3	−2.7	+4.4	+10.6	+22.3	−0.6	+5.8	+7.4[3]	*+4.2*	*+12.8*
On a year earlier	+40.1	+22.9	+32.3	+27.1	+35.6	+53.4	+40.9	+35.6	+36.5[3]	*+33.0*	*+77.5*

[1] For most purposes special trade may be defined as trade excluding re-exports. [2] General trade. [3] Weighted average of percentage changes in national currencies.
[8] All values are expressed in US dollars, making use of IMF parity rates as quoted in 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.
(e) estimated.
Source: United Kingdom: Department of Trade
All others: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'

TABLE 4 Imports (cif) Special trade[1], seasonally adjusted

US$ million*

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Den-mark[2]	France	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy	Nether-lands	United Kingdom[2]	EEC	*United States[2,3]*	*Japan[2]*
1968	8,304	3,216	13,980	20,148	1,176	10,248	9,288	18,960	85,320	*33,108*	*12,984*
1969	9,984	3,804	17,388	24,924	1,416	12,444	10,992	19,956	100,908	*36,048*	*15,024*
1970	11,352	4,380	19,116	29,808	1,572	14,940	13,392	21,720	116,280	*39,960*	*18,876*
1971	12,390	4,476	21,261	34,356	1,838	16,026	15,159	23,897	129,403	*45,633*	*19,716*
1972	14,903	4,971	26,665	39,783	2,113	19,284	17,142	27,831	152,692	*55,800*	*23,463*
1973	21,762	7,447	37,604	54,536	2,755	27,978	24,357	38,836	215,225	*69,121*	*38,316*
1972 1st quarter	3,573	1,185	6,354	9,435	495	4,458	4,095	6,848	36,443	*13,455*	*5,400*
2nd quarter	3,630	1,136	6,454	9,997	511	4,610	4,234	6,954	37,526	*13,200*	*5,456*
3rd quarter	3,721	1,301	6,606	9,836	511	4,895	4,233	6,530	37,633	*14,056*	*5,955*
4th quarter	3,979	1,349	7,251	10,515	596	5,321	4,580	7,499	41,090	*15,089*	*6,652*
1973 1st quarter	4,704	1,570	7,922	11,845	618	5,355	5,416	8,275	45,706	*16,136*	*7,355*
2nd quarter	5,241	1,753	9,004	13,168	657	6,700	5,687	9,426	51,636	*16,821*	*9,269*
3rd quarter	5 896	2,026	10,358	14,553	744	7,837	6,717	10,238	58,369	*17,433*	*10,122*
4th quarter	5,921	2,098	10,319	14,970	735	8,086	6,537	10,895	59,514	*18,680*	*11,570*
1974 1st quarter	6,517	2,363	11,931	15,179	839	9,351	7,258	12,100	65,538	*21,704*	*14,036*
2nd quarter	7,780	2,371	13,298	17,737	1,005	10,126	8,512	14,246	75,076	*25,160*	*16,571*
3rd quarter		2,114	14,041	18,412		11,323	8,488	14,059		*27,058*	*15,742*
1973 June	1,811	630	3,240	4,623	234	2,604	1,917	3,289	18,348	*5,765*	*3,290*
July	1,902	676	3,539	4,844	263	2,393	2,375	3,294	19,286	*5,821*	*3,256*
August	1,967	678	3,383	4,904	246	2,593	2,093	3,468	19,332	*5,991*	*3,587*
September	2,027	672	3,436	4,805	235	2,851	2,249	3,476	19,751	*5,621*	*3,279*
October	2,097	739	3,614	5,403	257	2,599	2,332	3,746	20,787	*5,969*	*3,621*
November	1,975	737	3,432	5,112	254	2,205	2,157	3,625	19,497	*6,628*	*3,840*
December	1,849	622	3,273	4,455	224	3,282	1,999	3,526	19,230	*6,083*	*4,109*
1974 January	2,181	784	3,755	5,074	233	2,439	2,252	3,502	20,220	*6,467*	*3,987*
February	2,148	776	3,968	4 814	272	3,337	2,348	4,130	21,793	*7,392*	*5,135*
March	2,188	803	4,208	5,291	334	3,575	2,658	4,468	23,525	*7,845*	*4,914*
April	2,389	818	4,394	5,666	327	3,756	2,844	4,543	24,737	*8,141*	*5,431*
May	2,823	780	4,620	6,524	331	3,070	2,891	4,799	25,838	*8,407*	*5,701*
June	2,568	773	4,284	5,547	347	3,301	2 777	4,904	24,501	*8,612*	*5,429*
July	2,803 (e)	836	5,169	6,012	364	4,249	3,216	4,926		*9,036*	*5,721*
August		821	4,599	6,384	355	3,566	2,734 (e)	4,527		*9,502*	*5,207*
September		757 (e)	4,273 (e)	5,971		3,508	2,538 (e)	4,606		*8,520*	*5,025*
October			4,216 (e)	6,049 (e)				4,699		*8,635*	
% change in dollar terms latest three months											
On previous three months	+21.8	+1.8	−7.0	+1.8	+7.5	+11.8	−0.3	−5.4	+14.6	*+2.3*	*−5.0*
On a year earlier	+48.9	+19.2	+25.4	+21.8	+43.5	+44.5	+26.4	+29.4	+45.4	*+51.6*	*+55.5*
% change in national currencies latest three months											
On previous three months	+16.0	+3.0	−9.1	+6.6	+7.8	+14.7	+1.2	−2.8	+9.3[4]	*+2.3*	*+1.7*
On a year earlier	+51.1	+27.0	+40.6	+32.6	+52.8	+65.2	+29.8	+35.5	+46.7[4]	*+51.6*	*+75.9*

[1] For most purposes special trade may be defined as trade excluding re-exports. [2] General trade. [3] *fob.* [4] Weighted average of percentage changes in national currencies.
* All values are expressed in US dollars with the use of IMF parity rates as quoted in 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.
(e) estimated. Source: United Kingdom: Department of Trade. All others: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'

TABLE 5 Balance of Payments on Current Account

US$ million (unadjusted)

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Den-mark	France	German F.R.	Ireland	Italy	Nether-lands	United Kingdom	EEC	*United States*	*Japan*
1968	28	−216	−1,059	2,726	− 57	2,627	65	− 682	3,432	*− 482*	*1,048*
1969	74	−410	−1,798	1,609	−190	2,339	31	1,068	2,723	*−1,036*	*2,119*
1970	715	−544	− 152	731	−185	762	−518	1,661	2,470	*355*	*1,970*
1971	1,004	−422	525	317	205	1,570	−234	2,588	5,143	*−3,817*	*5,797*
1972	1,136	− 65	285	397	−162	1,451	1,051	221	4,314	*−9,807*	*6,623*
1973	1,098	−469	− 229	4,694		−2,526	1,772	−3,569		*517*	*−132*
1972 1st quarter	279	− 39	− 324	− 52		607	5	− 73		*−2,202*	*958*
2nd quarter	215	56	445	−125		699	267	476		*−2,827*	*1,212*
3rd quarter	235	− 36	− 3	−485		577	382	355		*−3,639*	*2,084*
4th quarter	407	− 46	167	1,060		−433	397	173		*−1,139*	*2,369*
1973 1st quarter	354	−151	− 224	605		−914	396	− 890		*− 261*	*498*
2nd quarter	226	−179	280	1,227		−839	584	− 471		*− 871*	*−417*
3rd quarter	200	69	−432	903		−330	− 36	− 603		*−1,073*	*102*
4th quarter	318	−208	147	1,959		−443	828	−1,165		*2,722*	*−315*
1974 1st quarter	349	−498		2,539				−2,503		*1,082*	*−3,273*
2nd quarter	−38			2,666				−2,537		*−1,836*	*−2,478*
3rd quarter								−2,172			

Source: UK: Central Statistical Office. All others: IMF International Financial Statistics

TABLE 6 Export Unit Values of Manufactures

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg		France		German F.R.		Italy		Nether-lands		United Kingdom		*United States*	*Japan*	
	US$	Bfrs.	US$	frs.	US$	D.M.	US$	lire	US$	Gdrs.	US$	£	US$	US$	Yen
1968	92	92	96	85	88	96	90	90	95	95	90	90	*91*	*90*	*90*
1969	85	85	97	90	92	98	93	93	97	97	93	93	*95*	*94*	*94*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*	*100*
1971	98	96	105	105	107	102	106	105	104	101	107	105	*102*	*104*	*101*
1972	116	102	116	107	117	103	114	106	118	106	116	111	*105*	*116*	*99*
1973			140				127	118	141	109	127	124	*113*	*141*	*107*
1972 1st quarter	116	102	114	105	117	103	112	105	118	106	119	110	*104*	*112*	*96*
2nd quarter	117	103	114	105	116	102	113	105	117	105	120	111	*105*	*115*	*98*
3rd quarter	114	100	115	106	118	104	114	106	118	106	121	118	*104*	*117*	*100*
4th quarter	116	102	117	108	117	103	114	106	118	106	113	115	*107*	*119*	*102*
1973 1st quarter			126	110	124	103	119	110	126	106	119	118	*107*	*125*	*100*
2nd quarter			141	112	138	103	121	115	136	107	128	121	*111*	*136*	*100*
3rd quarter			153	115	159	104	131	120	152	110	129	125	*114*	*147*	*108*
4th quarter			142	113			133	125	153	112	131	132	*120*	*154*	*118*
1974 1st quarter			141	125									*127*		
2nd quarter													*132*		
% change latest 3 months:															
On previous 3 months	+1.6	+2.0	−0.7	+10.6	+15.2	+1.0	+1.5	+4.2	+0.7	+1.8	+1.6	+5.6	*+3.9*	*+4.8*	*+9.3*
On a year earlier	+9.4	+4.1	+11.9	+13.6	+34.7	Nil	+16.7	+17.9	+29.7	+5.7	+15.9	+14.8	*+18.9*	*+29.4*	*+15.7*

(e) estimated. Source: Dollar value: 'United Nations Monthly Bulletin'. National currency: Dollar values converted at OECD exchange rates as quoted in 'Series A'.

TABLE 7 **Consumer prices** All goods and services

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium[1]	Luxembourg[1]	Denmark	France[2]	German F.R.	Ireland	Italy	Netherlands	United Kingdom	*United States*	*Japan*[2]
1968	92	93	91	89	93	86	93	89	90	*90*	*88*
1969	96	96	94	95	96	92	95	96	94	*94*	*93*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	104	105	106	105	105	109	105	108	109	*104*	*106*
1972	110	110	113	112	111	118	111	116	117	*108*	*111*
1973	118	117	124	120	119	132	123	125	128	*114*	*124*
1972 1st quarter	108	108	110	109	109	115	108	113	114	*106*	*108*
2nd quarter	109	109	112	110	110	117	109	115	116	*107*	*111*
3rd quarter	111	111	114	113	112	120	111	116	118	*108*	*111*
4th quarter	113	113	116	115	114	122	114	119	121	*109*	*113*
1973 1st quarter	115	114	118	116	116	126	117	121	123	*111*	*116*
2nd quarter	117	117	122	118	119	130	122	125	127	*113*	*123*
3rd quarter	118	117	125	121	120	133	124	126	129	*116*	*126*
4th quarter	121	119	129	124	122	137	128	129	133	*118*	*131*
1974 1st quarter	125	123	134	129	125	144	135	132	139	*122*	*145*
2nd quarter	130	127	139	134	127	151	141	136	147	*125*	*151*
3rd quarter	136	129	145	139	128	157	151	138	151	*129*	*156*
1973 April	116	116	120	117	118		120	124	126	*112*	*121*
May	117	117	122	118	119	130	122	125	127	*113*	*123*
June	117	117	123	119	120		123	125	128	*114*	*123*
July	118	117	124	120	120		124	125	128	*114*	*124*
August	118	117	124	121	119	133	124	126	129	*116*	*125*
September	119	118	126	122	120		125	127	130	*117*	*129*
October	120	118	127	123	121		126	128	132	*118*	*129*
November	120	119	129	125	122	137	128	129	133	*118*	*130*
December	122	120	131	125	123		129	130	134	*119*	*135*
1974 January	123	121	134	127	124		132	130	137	*120*	*141*
February	125	124	134	129	125	144	134	131	139	*122*	*146*
March	127	124	135	131	125		138	133	141	*123*	*147*
April	128	126	137	133	126		139	135	145	*124*	*151*
May	130	127	139	134	127	151	141	136	147	*125*	*151*
June	132	128	142	136	127		143	136	149	*126*	*152*
July	134	129	143	138	128		147	137	150	*127*	*155*
August	136	129	144	139	128	157	150	138	150	*129*	*157*
September	138	130	147	140	128		155	140	152	*131*	*159*
October	139		149	142	129		158	142	155	*132*	*163*
% change latest three months:											
On previous three months	+4.0	+1.9	+3.8	+3.1	+1.0	+4.0	+7.1	+2.6	+2.5	*+3.2*	*+4.6*
On a year earlier	+15.4	+10.3	+16.7	+14.7	+7.3	+18.1	+23.0	+10.3	+17.1	*+11.8*	*+25.1*

[1] Excluding rent. Change of basis during period. (e) estimated.

Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.

TABLE 8 **Value of retail sales** Current prices, seasonally adjusted

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium[1]/ Luxembourg	Denmark	France[2]	German F.R.[3]	Ireland[4]	Italy[5]	Netherlands	Great Britain[5]	*United States*	*Japan*
1968	83	82	88	82	83	84	80	89	*92*	*80*
1969	90	90	97	90	91	90	89	93	*95*	*89*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	108	108	104	111	111	111	108	109	*109*	*110*
1972	120	119	110	120	125	125	121	123	*119*	*118*
1973	138	134	117	131	148	152	131	139	*134*	*145*
1972 1st quarter	115	113	107	118	119	109	116	116	*114*	*111*
2nd quarter	117	118	108	120	122	115	120	119	*117*	*114*
3rd quarter	122	121	111	124	126	118	122	125	*120*	*120*
4th quarter	126	123	110	125	132	158	124	130	*125*	*124*
1973 1st quarter	133	128	112	132	141	123	128	135	*132*	*135*
2nd quarter	134	129	116	130	147	141	130	133	*132*	*139*
3rd quarter	135	137	114	131	149	140	132	140	*136*	*147*
4th quarter	145	142	124	131	152	204	137	147	*137*	*156*
1974 1st quarter	150	144	128	137	160	160	140	148	*138*	*157*
2nd quarter	154	147	130	136	166	166		153	*142*	*160*
1973 January	132	127	112	127	137	115	126	131	*130*	*131*
February	135	128	113	133	145	113	130	135	*132*	*134*
March	134	128	111	128	143	141	127	139	*134*	*139*
April	130	128	111	129	142	142	124	131	*132*	*138*
May	135	127	120	129	148	144	131	132	*133*	*139*
June	134	134	115	127	151	139	132	136	*132*	*141*
July	133	135	114	129	143	137	130	138	*137*	*145*
August	133	137	113	131	158	123	133	139	*135*	*145*
September	139	139	116	131	147	161	132	141	*136*	*151*
October	144	141	126	134	151	183	137	146	*138*	*153*
November	144	141	120	130	155	177	135	147	*137*	*159*
December	148	143	124	130	151	253	138	149	*135*	*155*
1974 January	150	142	130	137	154	153	137	147	*137*	*160*
February	150	146	128	135	167	153	142	150	*138*	*156*
March	149	145	125	138	158	175	139	152	*140*	*154*
April	153	146	126	137	169	183	142	151	*142*	*154*
May	156	149	137	137	163	179	144	151	*143*	*160*
June	153	146	128	134	166	173		156	*142*	*165*
July		149	136	142				160	*148*	
August		144	130					164	*149*	
% change latest three months:										
On previous three months	+2.9	−0.2	+1.5	+0.7	+3.7	+11.2	+1.9	+6.2	*+3.3*	*+1.9*
On a year earlier	+14.9	+8.1	+15.2	+7.3	+12.9	+25.0	+11.6	+16.2	*+8.7*	*+14.6*

[1] Department stores. [2] Department and chainstores. [3] Excluding West Berlin. [4] Average weekly sales. [5] Excluding motor vehicles.
[6] Revised series, including chainstores.

Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.

TABLE 9 Earnings/wages per head in manufacturing Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium/ Luxembourg	Denmark[1, 2, 8]	France[3]	German F.R.[6] †	Ireland[3]	Italy[7]	Netherlands[3]	United Kingdom†	*United States*[4]	*Japan*[5] †
1968	84	81	82	79	76	78	82	81	*90*	*73*
1969	92	90	91	87	86	83	90	89	*95*	*85*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	111	115	110	116	116	113	112	111	*106*	*114*
1972	127	129	120	121	133	124	126	126	*113*	*132*
1973	147	154	135	136	159	154	142	143	*121*	*163*
1971 1st quarter	107	108	104	108	110	109	107	108	*104*	*108*
2nd quarter	110	114	107	109	114	111	110	111	*106*	*111*
3rd quarter	112	117	110	113	118	114	114	112	*106*	*116*
4th quarter	115	121	113	112	122	116	116	115	*108*	*117*
1972 1st quarter	122	123	115	116	127	119	122	121	*111*	*123*
2nd quarter	124	128	118	120	131	121	124	124	*112*	*129*
3rd quarter	127	130	121	122	135	126	128	127	*113*	*131*
4th quarter	132	134	125	126	140	130	129	131	*116*	*138*
1973 1st quarter	141	137	129	130	145	137	137	134	*118*	*146*
2nd quarter	145	150	133	135	157	151	140	139	*120*	*155*
3rd quarter	149	160	138	137	164	161	146	144	*122*	*162*
4th quarter	154	168	143	141	168	168	148	150	*124*	*175*
1974 1st quarter	161	174	147	142	172	176	160	147	*126*	*173*
2nd quarter		186	155	151		184	168	159	*129*	*201*
3rd quarter			164							
% change latest three months:										
On previous three months	+5.2	+6.9	+5.8	+6.3	+2.4	+4.5	+5.0	+8.2	*+2.4*	*+16.3*
On a year earlier	+15.0	+24.0	+18.8	+11.9	+18.6	+14.3	+20.0	+14.4	*+7.5*	*+29.9*

† Seasonally adjusted.
[1] Including mining. [2] Earnings [3] Hourly earnings industry: males. [4] Gross hourly earnings per productive worker. [5] Monthly earnings in manufacturing: regular workers.
[6] Wages and salaries per employed person in industry, excluding construction, public gas and electricity undertakings. [7] Hourly-rates times average daily hours worked.
[8] Revised series.
Source: All countries 'OECD Main Economic Indicators', except German Federal Republic ('Monatsberichte der Deutschen Bundesbank', Reihe 4), Italy ('I.L.O. Yearbook' and 'M.E.I.') and United Kingdom ('Department of Employment Gazette').

Publications on the European Communities

continued from page 7

House of Lords Paper 130-1. The Select Committee on European Communities (Sub-Committee B) Minutes of Evidence. 25 July 1974. (10 439975 9). 14pp. 34p (37½p).

House of Lords Paper. No. 139. European Communities Committee. Special Report. (10 413975 7). 24pp. 29p (34p).

House of Lords Paper 140. 10th Report from the Select Committee of the House of Lords on the European Communities. R/1900/73 and R/1957/74 – Future Sugar Policy of the Communities. (10 414075 5). 20pp. 38p (43p).

House of Commons Paper. 192. Third Report from the Committee on European Secondary Legislation &c. Together with the Proceedings of the Committee. (10 219275 8). 8pp. 12p (15½p).

House of Commons Paper 205. Fourth Report from the Committee on European Secondary Legislation etc. Together with the Proceedings of the Committee. (10 220575 2). 6pp. 12p (15½p).

House of Commons Paper 223. 5th Report from the Committee on European Secondary Legislation &c. Together with the Proceedings of the Committee. (10 222375 0). 8pp. 12p (15½p).

House of Commons Paper 245. Report from the Committee on European Secondary Legislation &c. Together with the Proceedings of the Committee. (10 224575 4). 6pp. 12p (15½p).

House of Commons Paper 332-II. 11th Report from the Committee on European Secondary Legislation &c. (10 275575 2). 8pp. 12p (15½p).

Statutory Instrument 1974. No. 1263. European Communities (Definition of Treaties) Order 1974 (11041263 X). 3p. (6½p).

2. Non-Parliamentary Publications

Industrial Relations Commission Report. Study 4. Worker Participation and Collective Bargaining in Europe. (0 11 700254 2). 180pp. £1.15 (£1.28).

Statutory Publications Office. Secondary Legislation of the European Communities. Subject List and Table of Effects 1973. (11 330507 9). 60pp. £1.50 (£1.57).

3. Publications Sold but not Published by HMSO

Commission of the European Communities

Iron and Steel Undertakings of the Community. 1974. (11 934182 4). 188pp. £2.31 (£2.44).

Third Report on Competition Policy. (Addendum to the Seventh General Report on the Activities of the Communities). May 1974. (11 934133 6). 138pp. £1.16 (£1.27).

Supplements to the Bulletin

3/74 Education in the European Community (Communication from the Commission to the Council, presented on 11 March 1974). (11 934158 1). 22pp. 12p (17p).

Bulletin of the European Communities. Special Supplement. Directory of the Commission of the European Communities. August 1974. (11 934203 0). 80pp. 41p (48p).

Statistical Office of the European Communities

Foreign Trade. Country Nomenclature 1974. (11 934207 3). 84pp. 62½p (73½p).

Energy Statistics. No 1, 1974. Special Number. A Comparison of Fuel Prices. Oil – Coal – Gas. (0 11 934169 7). 144pp. £2.10 (£2.25).

Studies Series

Studies, Transport Series – 1973 No. 3, Co-ordination of investments in transport infrastructures. Analysis-Recommendations-Procedures. (0 11 934085 2). 88p. £2.88 (£2.99).

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

OECD Economic Outlook. No 15. July 1974 (92 64 11223 5). 124pp. £2.00 (£2.11).

Economic Survey. Netherlands. June 1974. (92 64 11214 6). 60pp. + folded insert. 50p (57p).

Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union. July 1974. (92 64 11230 8). 72pp. + folded insert. 50p (57p).

Finland. August 1974. (92 64 11212 X). 62pp. + folded insert. 50p (57p).

Austria. July 1974. (92 64 11232 4). 67pp. 50p (55p).

Denmark. July 1974. (92 64 11228 6). 62pp. 50p (57p).

Sweden. July 1974. (92 64 11227 8). 66pp. 50p (57p).

European Community

1975 Generalised Tariff Preferences Scheme for developing countries

Trade and Industry of 12 September 1974 stated that discussions were in progress between the Commission of the European Communities and the nine Member States for the scheme to be adopted in 1975. These discussions have now been concluded and the details of the scheme will be published shortly in the *Official Journal of the European Communities.*

Background information on the general working of the GSP scheme was given in *Trade and Industry* published on 11 October 1973 and 3 January 1974. Details of items included in the GSP scheme and general information on its operation (including how to claim the benefit of tariff quotas) are published in Parts 10 and 11 of HM Customs and Excise Tariff which is obtainable from Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

As in 1974 most goods other than raw materials in Chapters 25-99 of the Customs Tariff may be imported duty free within tariff quota limits or under ceilings. In the case of tariff quotas a published prescribed share is allocated to each Member State with a Community reserve in two cases on which Member States draw and to which they contribute if they do not use up their initial shares by a certain date. Once a Member State's shares are finally exhausted (including drawing on Community reserves) the normal rate of duty is re-imposed. For each quota there is also a published limit (the 'butoir') that determines the amount of duty free imports into the Commun y as a whole from individual supplying countries. In the case of ceilings the normal duty may be re-imposed when a certain amount (the ceiling) has been imported into the Community as a whole and there are inner ceilings for imports into the Community as a whole from particular supplying countries. Neither the amounts of ceilings nor inner ceilings are published. A number of items (other than textiles) that were subject to quotas in 1974 will be subject in 1975 to 'special ceilings' which are covered by a separate EEC Council Regulation. For these like other ceilings the normal rate of duty may be re-imposed when the ceiling is reached for imports into the Community as a whole but it will be re-applied automatically for individual supplying countries, once their exports reach the inner ceilings. These limits are not published, except for special inner ceilings on a number of items for a few supplying countries. In addition there are special provisions in some cases for Member States individually to re-impose normal rates of duty when imports into their territories from the few supplying countries reach prescribed levels.

As in 1974 for agricultural processed goods in Chapters 1-24 of the Customs Tariff there are preferential rates of duty which are not subject to quota or ceiling limits except for virginia flue cured tobacco, soluble coffee and cocoa butter and preserved pineapples for which there are tariff quotas. The EEC Regulations for these goods give the preferential rates for the Common Customs Tariff and the UK's preferential rates which are lower than the CCT rates are being published in the UK tariff.

Although Customs can inform importers upon application (see next paragraph) how much of the UK tariff quota shares have been used, only the Commission can monitor how far Community imports are progressing under butoirs and ceilings. Any importers who want information about such imports should apply to Customs. Details of the re-imposition of duties in all these cases are published monthly in *Trade and Industry* but inevitably this information appears after the event.

Other GSP arrangements

As stated in the article in *Trade and Industry* of 3 January 1974 the UK GSP scheme has been continued in full for the 'standstill' countries, that is the 'Associable' Commonwealth countries (eg Nigeria and Jamaica) and certain developing countries and territories already associated with the Community (eg under the Yaoundé Convention) until 31 January 1975 by which time it was expected that a new enlarged association agreement would have been negotiated. This has meant that GSP imports from these countries which enter the UK under these standstill arrangements are not to be counted against the quotas and ceilings provided for under the Community Scheme. A new agreement may, however, not be applicable immediately after 31 January and in that event interim arrangements will be announced separately. For the other (non-standstill) developing countries which were beneficiaries of the UK scheme on 1 January 1972, the UK concessions on products wholly excluded from the Community's scheme are being phased out gradually. The products affected are mainly 'primary' products and some agricultural products. The concessionary rates will be shown in Part 10 of the UK tariff.

Any general inquiries about GSP should be addressed to CRE1, Department of Trade, 1 Victoria Street, SW1, or Tariff Division, Department of Trade, Room 333, 66-74 Victoria Street, SW1. Inquiries about what the normal rate of duty will be for imports outside the GSP arrangements should be made to Tariff Division, Department of Trade, 66-74 Victoria Street, SW1, Room 310, for Chapters 1-24 and 50-63, Room 301 for Chapters 25-49 and Room 308 for Chapters 64-99. Inquiries to Customs should be made to International Customs Division J3, HM Customs and Excise, King's Beam House, Mark Lane, EC3.

A library for exporters

Foreign trade statistics and other economic statistics from almost every country in the world are available for reference in the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library at Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU. A modern well-equipped library of over 85,000 volumes, it has a reading room for visitors and provides a document-copying service. There are trade directories covering 150 countries, and an expanding collection of trade catalogues of overseas manufacturers. The library opens from 9 to 5.30, Mondays to Fridays (Tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 368 or Telex No. 886143).

New EC Legislation

The legislation listed below has been published in the 'Official Journal of the European Communities' as indicated against each item. The 'Official Journal' is now published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as other Member States' requirements are concerned, is available to British exporters from Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 4174/482/408). Other information may be obtained from the reference points given at the end of the item.

COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY: The texts of the following Regulations and Decisions which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

General. Regulation (EEC) 3078/74 on the rate of interest to be used for calculating finance costs in respect of intervention measures on the internal markets in beef and veal, milk and milk products and raw tobacco. (*Official Journal* L326, 6 December 1974)

Animal health. Decision 74/579/EEC increasing the reserve of foot-and-mouth disease vaccine for the protection of Community livestock. (*Official Journal* L316, 26 November 1974)

Decision 74/580/EEC concerning the supply of foot-and-mouth vaccine. (*Official Journal* L316, 26 November 1974)

Milk and milk products. Regulation (EEC) 3038/74 amending the first sub-paragraph of Article 2 (5) of Regulation (EEC) 71/73 on the sale of butter from public stocks by substituting '6 units of account' for '15 units of account'. (*Official Journal* L323, 3 December 1974)

Cattle, beef and veal. Regulation (EEC) 3067/74 laying down detailed rules for the application of the system of interest subsidies on loans advanced for the retention of young cattle on the farm. (*Official Journal* L325, 5 December 1974)

Regulation (EEC) 3089/74 deferring the date of taking-over of the beef placed on sale by the intervention agencies under Regulations (EEC) 2073/74 and (EEC) 2320/74. The date '15 September 1974' specified in Article 1 (1) of Regulation (EEC) 2073/74 and in Article 1 (1) of Regulation (EEC) 2320/74 is replaced by the date '1 November 1974'. (*Official Journal* L327, 7 December 1974)

Seeds. Decision 74/600/EEC authorising France for a period expiring on 31 July 1975 to approve for marketing commercial seed of white clover. (*Official Journal* L326, 6 December 1974)

Live plants. Decision 74/601/EEC amending Decision 74/505/EEC authorising the Member States to approve for marketing reproductive material of certain forest species satisfying less stringent requirements. (*Official Journal* L326, 6 December 1974)

Wine. Regulation (EEC) 3088/74 laying down detailed rules for the distillation of wine of quality lower than table wine and originating in certain areas affected by adverse weather conditions. (*Official Journal* L327, 7 December 1974)

Eggs. The *Official Journal of the European Communities* C152, 3 December 1974 contains a list of week numbers to be used in 1975 on eggs and egg packages in accordance with Article 17 (2) of Regulation (EEC) 1619/68 on marketing standards for eggs.

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF IMPORT DUTIES: The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L319, 29 November 1974, contains the text of Regulation (EEC) 2990/74 temporarily suspending the autonomous duties in the Common Customs Tariff on certain industrial products.

Details of the goods concerned, the reduced rates of duty and the periods during which these will be applied are set out below.

Applications for copies of the *Official Journal of the European Communities* containing the legislation referred to should be made to HMSO and not to the inquiry points given in the notices.

CCT heading no.	Description of goods	Rate of autonomous duties
		From 1 Jan. 1975 to 30 June 1975
ex 29.02 A III	Vinyl bromide	Total suspension
ex 29.03 B II	Nitromethane	Total suspension
ex 29.15 A IV a)	Sebacic acid	Total suspension
ex 29.15 C III	Tetrachlorophthalic anhydride	Total suspension
ex 29.26 A I	Orthobenzoicsulphimide (saccharine)	8%
ex 29.27	(-)-2-acetamido-2-vanillylpropionitrile	Total suspension
ex 29.29	(-)-2-(3,4-dihydroxybenzyl)-2-hydrazino-propionic acid	Total suspension
ex 29.35 Q	(-)-1-*tert*butylamino-3(4-morpholino-1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-yloxypropan-2-01	Total suspension
ex 29.35 Q	Indomethacin (1-(4-chlorobenzoyl)-5-methoxy-2-methylindol-3-ylacetic acid)	Total suspension
ex 29.35 Q	2-picolin	Total suspension
ex 29.35 Q	Methyl 3-amino-5,6-dichloropyrazine-2-carboxylate	Total suspension
ex 29.39 D II	Triamcinolonacetonide-21-(2,2 dimethylbutyrate); triamcinolonacetonide; triamcinolondiacetate	10%
ex 29.44 C	4-nitrobenzyl 7-amino-3-methyl-8-oxo-5-thia-1-arabicylo [4,2,0] oct-2-ene-2 carboxylate and salts thereof	Total suspension
32.01 A	Tanning extracts of wattle (mimosa)	Total suspension
ex 32.01 D	Tanning extracts derived from gambier and myrobolan fruits	Total suspension
ex 32.07 B	Polycarbonate with a carbon black content of not less than 22% and not more than 28% by weight	Total suspension
ex 38.03 B	Acid-activated montmorillonite which, when examined by X-ray powder diffraction, shows four principal lines corresponding to crystal interplanar spacing (d values) of 0.44, 0.40, 0.33 and 0.25 nanometres, the line corresponding to 0.40 nanometre being the most intense	Total suspension
ex 39.01 C VII	Polyimide foils whether or not in rolls	Total suspension
ex 39.02 C XIV a)	Copolymers of vinyl chloride in one of the forms mentioned in Note 3 (a) to Chapter 39, containing by weight not less than 90% and not more than 92% vinyl chloride, not less than 2% and not more than 4% vinyl acetate and not less than 4% and not more than 8% vinyl alcohol	Total suspension
ex 39.02 C XIV a)	Copolymers of vinylidene chloride and hexafluorpropylene in one of the forms mentioned in Note 3 (a) and (b) to Chapter 39 for use in the manufacture of aircraft tyres (a)	9%
ex 41.02 B	Leather of East India kip, whole, whether or not the heads and legs have been removed, weighing each more than 4.5 kg. net and not more than 8 kg., not further prepared than vegetable tanned, whether or not having undergone further preservative treatment with oil, but obviously unsuitable for immediate use in the manufacture of leather articles	Total suspension
ex 51.01 A	Yarn wholly of poly glycolic acid	Total suspension
ex 56.01 A	Synthetic textile fibres of aromatic polyamides obtained by polycondensation of *m*-phenylenediamine and *iso*phtalic acid	Total suspension
ex 69.09 B	Catalyst supports, consisting of porous cordierite ceramic pieces of roughly circular or oval cross-section with parallel sides, having an overall volume of not less than 240 ml. and not more than 11,100 ml., and having a minimum dimension of not less than 90 mm. and a maximum dimension of not more than 480 mm., having not less than 28 continuous channels per 100 sq. mm. running parallel to the main axis of symmetry, the total channel cross-section area being not less than 60% and not more than 80% of the whole cross-section area	Total suspension
ex 90.01 B	Material consisting of a polarising film, supported on one or both sides by transparent material	Total suspension

(a) The application of this suspension will be subject to the conditions determined by the competent authorities.

		From 1 Jan. 1975 to 31 Dec. 1975
ex 29.35 Q	6-hexanolide (*epsilon*-caprolactone)	6.3%
ex 29.38 B II	*D*- and *DL*-calcium pantothenate	3.5%
ex 39.01 C III	Polyhexanolide (polycaprolactone)	9.6%

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L319, 29 November 1974 contains the text of Regulation (EEC) 2991/74 temporarily suspending totally from 1 January to 31 December 1975, the customs duties applicable in the Community as originally constituted to a number of chemical products imported from the new Member States. Details of the goods concerned are set out below.

CCT heading no.	Description of goods
ex 29.35 Q	6-hexanolide (*epsilon*-caprolactone)
ex 29.38 B II	*D*- and *DL*-calcium pantothenate
ex 39.01 C III	Polyhexanolide (polycaprolactone)

Further information: Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Branch, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 408/482/7174 (duties, taxes, etc., on imports into the EEC other than the UK); Tariff Division, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, tel. 01-215 5519 (imports into the UK).

IMPORTS FROM NON-MEMBER STATES: The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L326, 6 December 1974, contains the text of Decision 74/603/EEC authorising France not to apply Community treatment to woven fabrics of synthetic textile fibres discontinuous falling within subheading 56.07 A of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Taiwan, and in free circulation in the other Member States.

EEC/GREECE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT: The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L313, 25 November 1974 contains the text of Regulation (EEC) 2911/74 amending Regulation (EEC) 610/72 on the application of the provisions adopted within the framework of the association established between the European Economic Community and Greece relating to the movement of goods in the manufacture of which are used products which come from third countries and are not in free circulation either in the Community or in Greece. Regulation (EEC) 610/72 is amended as follows:

The final indent of Article 5, as inserted by Regulation (EEC) 3287/73, is replaced by the following:

'– from 1 January to 31 December 1974 90%;
– from 1 January 1975 100%'

TREATIES ESTABLISHING ECSC, EURATOM AND THE EEC: The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L318, 28 November 1974, contains the text of Decision 74/584/EEC, Euratom, ECSC on the adjustment of Article 32 of the ECSC Treaty, Article 165 of the EEC Treaty and Article 137 of the Euratom Treaty. This Decision replaces the third paragraph of each of the above articles by the following:

'Whever the Court of Justice hears cases brought before it by a member State or by one of the institutions of the Community or, to the extent that the chambers of the court do not have the requisite jurisdiction under the Rules of Procedure, has to give preliminary rulings on questions submitted to it pursuant to Article 41 for the ECSC Treaty/Article 177 for the EEC Treaty/Article 150 for the EURATOM Treaty it shall sit in plenary session.'

EEC Information Unit

The EEC Information Unit helps firms of all types and sizes by answering general questions about the effects of entry into the EEC and by guiding them where necessary to more specialised information sources. New customers are always welcome, particularly firms new to EEC questions.

The unit's address is: EEC Information Unit, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET. Tel: 01-215 4301 (six lines).

Export publicity for industry

Publicity for British exporters can often be obtained through use of the facilities of the Central Office of Information, who are concerned with collecting from industry items suitable for dissemination overseas by way of Government information services. The COI are interested in news items, feature article material, photographs, tape recordings for radio, and films for television and other screening. Contact should be made with the nearest Regional Office covering your area.

Northern: Mr H. G. Roberts, Andrews House, Gallowgate, Newcastle upon Tyne NEI 4TB (Tel: 27575 – Telex 53277).

Yorkshire & Humberside: Mr D. de M. Guilfoyle, OBE, City House, Leeds LS1 4JG (Tel: 38232 – Telex Econ Plan 55472 – message to be prefixed for COI).

East Midland: Mr T. Cooban, Cranbrook House, Cranbrook Street, Nottingham NG1 1EW (Tel: 46121 – Telex 37572).

Eastern: Mr A. A. McLoughlin, Block D, Government Buildings, Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge CB2 2DF (Tel: 58911 – Telex 81187).

London & South Eastern*: Mr R. Dean, OBE, St. Christopher House Annexe, Sumner Street, London, SE1 (Tel: 01-928 2371 – Telex 918881 message to be prefixed for London Region).

Southern: Mr A. S. Poole, Market Place House, Reading RG1 2EH (Tel: 581261 – Telex 848216).

South Western: Mr W. J. D. Irving, MVO, The Pithay, Bristol BS1 2NF (Tel: 291071 – Telex 44203).

Midland: Mr D. C. Boyd, Five Ways House, Islington Row, Birmingham B15 1SH (Tel: 021-643 8191 – Telex 33376).

North Western: Mr H. V. Tillotson, MVO, 22nd floor, Sunley Building, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester M1 4BD (Tel. 061-832 9111 – Telex 667830).

Scottish Office: Mr C. MacGregor, MBE, Scottish Information Office, St. Andrew's House, Edinburgh EH1 3DQ (Tel· 031-556 8501) District Office: 314 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow C2 (Tel: 041-221 5670 – Telex 77583).

Ulster Office: Northern Ireland Information Service, Stormont Castle, Belfast BT4 3ST (Tel: 63011).

Welsh Office: Mr Brian Evans, Director, Welsh Office Information Division, 42 Park Place, Cardiff CF1 3PY (Tel: 28066 – Telex 49327).

* National companies in central London, and particularly those with UK subsidiaries or branches, which require overseas publicity should consult Industrial Section at COI Headquarters: Mr E. Turnbull, Central Office of Information, Hercules Road, London SE1 7DU (Tel: 01-938 2345 ext. 271 – Telex 915444).

Trade Information

Wages paid by British firms in South Africa: the Government's conclusions

Further action to encourage British firms in South Africa to improve the wages and working conditions of their African employees is promised in a White Paper published on 18 December.

The White Paper records the Government's observations on the report of a Parliamentary Select Committee set up in 1973 to investigate the wages and working conditions of African workers employed by British companies with subsidiaries in South Africa.

It recalls that a Code of Practice setting out the Committee's guidelines for employment practices by UK companies with interests in South Africa was widely distributed to parent companies early in 1974.

Since then, says the White Paper, the Government had been considering the Committee's other recommendations after consultations with both sides of industry.

The Government's proposals essentially rely on a system of voluntary disclosure of information buttressed by publicity. The White Paper says the Government has decided that:

British officials, both in the UK and South Africa, will continue to draw the attention of businessmen to the Code of Practice and stress the Government's endorsement of it;

Supplementary guidance on labour matters in South Africa will be sent to all British companies with affiliates there;

UK companies with subsidiaries in South Africa will be invited to publish on a regular basis information to show progress in raising the living standards and working conditions of their African employees, in annual reports to shareholders, chairman's statement, or in any other convenient form.

As already announced, a First Secretary (Labour) will be appointed to the British Embassy to keep Departments in London fully informed on labour matters in South Africa and to provide when required general information and advice to South African subsidiaries of British firms.

Inland Revenue guidance on the tax implications of the issue of directives on labour matters by parent companies to their subsidiaries is contained in an annex to the White Paper.

Notes

The Select Committee's report (Fifth Report from the Expenditure Committee, HC 116) was published on 6 March 1974.

Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, announced in Parliament on 1 May that the Government accepted the Sub-Committee's main recommendation that amplified guidance should be issued to British firms on wages and conditions of African workers. Copies of the guidelines have been sent to the chairmen of nearly 600 companies having between them about 1,500 associates or subsidiaries in South Africa.

The Foreign Secretary announced in Parliament on 4 December future Government policy towards Southern Africa.

Copies of the White Paper (Wages and Working Conditions of African Workers Employed by British Firms in South Africa: Government Observations on the Fifth Report From the Expenditure Committee, Cmnd. 5845) are available from HMSO price 12p net.

Ex-gratia payment in respect of countervailing duty on Italian freezers

The Secretary of State for Trade has decided to make an ex-gratia payment in respect of countervailing duties paid on certain food freezers and refrigerators-cum-freezers under the Countervailing Deputy Order 1968 (SI 1968 No. 1240) or the Anti-Dumping and Countervailing Duties (Metric Rates) Order 1971 (SI 1971 No. 2001). Only goods of Italian origin imported between 10 August 1968 and 31 December 1973 (both dates inclusive) falling within the definition of food freezers in the Amendment of 15 May 1973 to British Standard 3456 Part C: 1967 will be eligible. The definition is as follows:

'An appliance or a compartment of a household refrigerator suitable for freezing a stated quantity of food from 25° centigrade to minus 18° centigrade or below within 24 hours, and for the storage of frozen foods at a temperature of minus 18° centigrade or below'.

No other appliances will qualify for ex-gratia payments.

Applications are invited from importers or their agents who should supply the following documents:

a copies of each relevant Customs entry document and of each relevant supplier's invoice.

b a schedule containing the following information:
  i the date of entry
  ii the port of entry
  iii the Customs entry number
  iv the quantity of each consignment
  v the net weight of each consignment
  vi the types and model numbers of food freezers imported in each consignment.

c evidence that the food freezers concerned meet the British Standard definition set out above

d a declaration that an application does not include a request for ex-gratia payment in respect of goods on which the countervailing duty has been repaid on re-exportation or for any other reason.

The above mentioned documents and information certified by an accountant who is qualified under the terms of Section 161 of the Companies Act 1948 as amended by Section 2 of the Companies Act 1967 for appointment as auditor of the applicant (or would be qualified if the applicant were a company) should be sent to P. F. West, Department of Trade, Tariff Division, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SH as soon as possible, and not later than 15 May 1975.

All payments will be made ex-gratia and without admission of liability and in full and final settlement of all claims against the Crown or any Government Department arising out of the import of the food freezers or refrigerators-cum-freezers concerned between 10 August 1968 and 31 December 1973. The decision of the Department will in all cases be final.

Australia: environment protection measures

The Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Bill 1974 recently received its Second Reading in the Australian Parliament. The Minister for the Environment and Conservation said: 'This Bill seeks to impose consideration of environmental factors in the Government's decision making through use of the environmental impact statement technique and public inquiries.'

It is thought that the measure lays the basis for the Government to overrule any project where environmental cost is considered to outweigh economic cost. The measures are likely to affect most new mining or minerals processing operations, as well as state or local government operations in such fields as roads, airports, and housing and other construction work. Ref. CRE 4390. Inquiries: CRE, tel. 01-215 5318/5319.

Two bulk carriers for Liberia: loans of £5.6m guaranteed by ECGD

The Export Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed two separate loans totalling £5.6 million which Williams and Glyn's Bank has made available to help finance the purchase of two B26 bulk carriers. The vessels which are being built by Austin and Pickersgill Ltd., Sunderland, for Leon Corporation of Monrovia and Righteous Navigation Incorporated, Liberia, are scheduled for delivery in late 1975 and early 1976 respectively.

Generator transformers for Mexico: ECGD backs £1m loan

The Export Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed a loan of £1 million towards the purchase of seven generator transformers for the Laguna Verde nuclear power station in Mexico.

This is the second contract signed between Parsons Peebles Ltd., Edinburgh, and Comision Federal de Electricidad as part of its fourth electrification expansion programme.

The loan, arranged by Lazard Brothers on behalf of the Royal Bank of Scotland, will be repaid over a period of 10 years.

CRE tel. Direct dialling **OTAR** telephone 01-248 5757
Extensions to **OTAR** numbers are given at the end of each notice

Applications for temporary exemption from import duty

The Department of Trade is considering applications for the temporary exemption from import duty of the materials listed below on the grounds that these materials are not made in this country or the Commonwealth or the supply available from these sources is not substantial having regard to the existing United Kingdom demand.

Representations are invited from manufacturers in this country or agents of Commonwealth manufacturers who consider they are, or will be within a reasonable period, in a position to supply a substantial proportion of the United Kingdom demand for these materials, or who are interested in their future production.

Temporary exemptions come into effect on the operative date of the Treasury Order in which the materials are specified and normally continue until the end of the current calendar year, when they are reviewed.

Interested parties who wish to make representations should address them to Tariff Division, Department of Trade, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, preferably through a Trade Association, giving the respective reference shown below and stating whether their names may be passed to the applicants for temporary exemption. Representations should be received by 9 January 1975.

Tariff heading	Proposed definition for tariff purposes	Applied for as	Exemption required until	Reference
29.14	Ethyl acrylate	As in previous column	31 December 1975	14990
40.11	New tyres and tyre cases suitable for use on commercial motor vehicles and having a ply rating, as defined in British Standard AU50: Part 1: Section Ob:1973, of 16	Heavy tyres	31 December 1975	15279
73.15	Wire rod of alloy steel, not further worked than hot-rolled or extruded; not less than 5.5 mm. and not more than 6.5 mm. in diameter; containing not less than 28% and not more than 32% by weight of chromium and not less than 8.5% and not more than 11% by weight of nickel as the major alloying elements	Stainless steel wire rod	31 December 1975	14594

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exports (CRE) Divisions, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension. In the Tariff and Trade Notices section countries are grouped by continents as far as possible; they are listed alphabetically on the contents page.

Tariff and Trade Notices

France

Duty-reduced quota for seed potatoes. The French *Journal Officiel*, 30 October 1974, gave further details of the quota for seed potatoes (tariff no. 07.01 AIa) to be imported at a reduced rate of duty until 30 June 1975 (see *Trade and Industry*, 19 December, page 646).

Applications for import licences must conform with the conditions set out in the arrêtés of 12 October 1962 and 1 October 1963. They should be addressed, together with a stamped envelope bearing the name and address of the applicant, to the Bureau des fruits et légumes (Sous-direction des productions végétales), Ministère de l'Agriculture, 3 rue Barbet-de-Jouy, Paris 7e. Applications must be confined to the following varieties:

Early: Alcmaria, Bea, Colmo, Esterling, Favorita, Jaerla, José, Ostara, Prima, Privaz, Primura, Resy, Spunta and Sirtema

Floury: Ambassadeur, Amex, Amigo, Bolm's Bodenkraft, Brunella, Calori, Commandeur, Compagnon, Daresa, Flora, Format, Goliath, Kaptah-Vandel, Kastor, Maritta, Monitor, Multa, Panther, Patroness, Prevalent, Procura, Prominent, Rector, Saturna, Tasso, Thynia, Ultimus and Ursula.

Separate applications must be made for early varieties and floury varieties. Each application must not be for more than 230 metric tons. A renewal may be obtained when part or all of the quota is exhausted subject to a maximum of 460 tons at any one time. Importers should now submit a statement of the amounts imported during the periods 1972-73 and 1973-74.

Potatoes imported into France are subject to the sanitary controls laid down in an Order dated 1 September 1964 and they must be routed through a customs post open for phytosanitary control. A list of these posts was given in an Order dated 5 March 1962. Copies of the French text can be sent on request or seen at Export House. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 423/408/482.

Food labelling regulations. An arrêté in the French *Journal Officiel*, 29 October 1974, specifies that the following foodstuffs prepacked in small quantities for retail sale need not carry on the package any indication of net weight or volume unless the quantities exceed the amounts set out below.

Confectionery	less than 100 grammes
rusks, biscuits, gingerbread, jams, jellies, marmalade or honey	less than 50 grammes
mustard	less than 50 grammes
potato crisps	less than 50 grammes
aromatic herbs (thyme, bay leaves, etc.) in bouquets, to be used for seasoning purposes	presented in transparent sachets of less than 30 grammes
cheese (type not specified)	manufactured by producers of the milk used and usually sold by the piece
ices and ice creams	less than 100 cm^3 in volume

All other existing regulations concerning prepacked foods must be observed. The full French text of the notice can be sent on request or seen at Export House. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 423/408/482.

Further information

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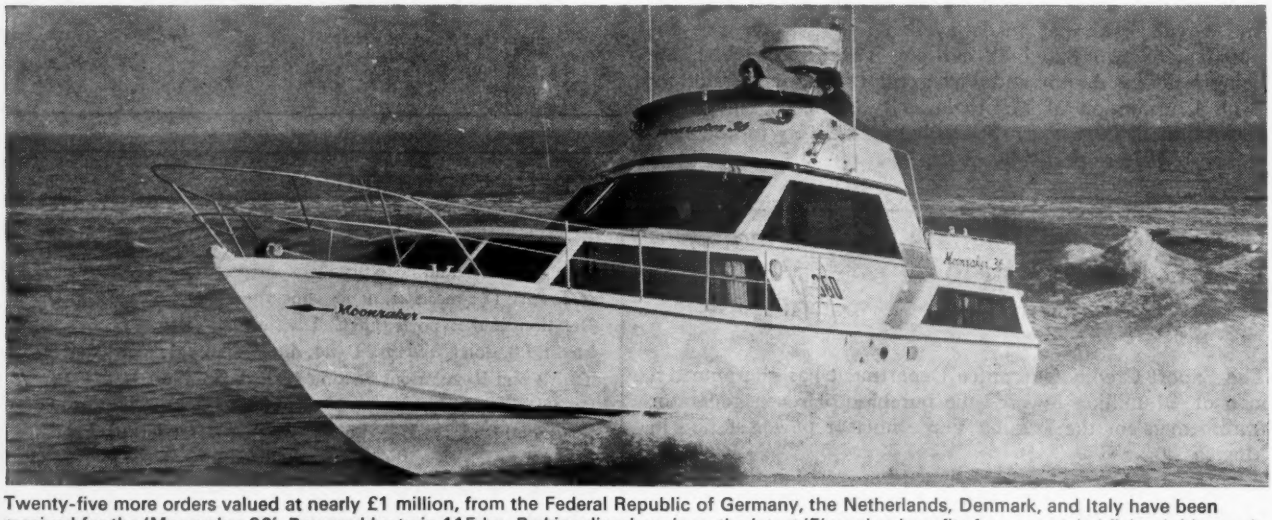

Twenty-five more orders valued at nearly £1 million, from the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, and Italy have been received for the 'Moonraker 36'. Powered by twin 115 hp. Perkins diesel engines, the latest 'E' version benefits from a restyled flying bridge and wheelhouse, resulting in a much larger rear sun deck. According to the builders, Moonraker Motor Yachts, Norwich, the recent boost in orders result from the customising of the craft for the European mainland market. This includes a constant water pressure system, high capacity cold air system (for hot weather), steel boarding ladders, gas detectors and tinted glass – all items which would normally be regarded as optional extras.

Spain

Sunflower seed oil: import duty suspended. Notice was given in *Trade and Industry*, 24 October 1974 (page 180), of the suspensions of import duty until 13 December 1974 on sunflower seed oil, crude, tariff heading 15.07.A.2 a.7 and refined or purified, tariff heading 15.07.A.2.b.7. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 12 December 1974, announced the extension of the period of validity until 13 March 1975.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 462/471/472/473.

Bicycle tyres and tubes: duty suspension extended. Notice was given in *Trade and Industry*, 22 August 1974, of the suspension of import duty until 29 October 1974 on tyres and inner tubes for bicycles. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 4 December 1974, extended the validity until January 1975. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 462/471/472/473.

Tariff modifications. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 4 December 1974, announced modifications to the text of subheadings 84.11.D; 84.46.D and to tariff heading 85.01 of the Spanish customs tariff as follows:

Tariff no.	Description
84.11.D	Motor pumps and compressors:
2	Airtight for liquid refrigerants of nominal absorbed power between 1.5 and 7.5 kw. both inclusive
84.46.D	Automatic machines for the production of unworked parts of china, earthenware and stoneware, excluding presses
85.01	Electrical goods of the following description: Generators, motors, rotary or static converters (rectifiers, etc.) transformers, reactance and retardation coils

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 462/471/472/473.

Cheese and curd: tariff modifications. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 27 November 1974, announced modifications to tariff heading 04.04 of the Spanish customs tariff. Modifications are mainly in the CIF value by weight in the standard portions or slices.

Copies of the Spanish text may be obtained from OTAR Section. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 462/471/472/473.

Portugal

Duty exemption on capital goods. Portuguese *Diario do Governo* No. 260 published Law 600/74 of 8 November 1974, which extends the list of parts and accessories which may be exempt from duty in accordance with Decree Law 65/70 of 26 February 1970 when imported exclusively for use in the construction of machinery and other capital goods. Decree Laws 267/73, 271/73 and 548/73, details of which were published in *Trade and Industry*, 27 September 1973 and 6 December 1973, are revoked. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 460/461.

Man-made fibres and yarn: drawback of import duty. Portuguese *Diario do Governo* No. 271 published Order 754/74 of 21 November 1974, authorising the import under drawback of continuous or discontinuous man-made fibres and yarn and mixtures containing man-made and natural fibres or yarn intended for the manufacture of open-work fabric for use in clothing, household wear or for interior decoration.

Duty will be refunded according to the quantity of imported material used in the exported article. The weight of buttons, clasps, trimmings, etc., will be deducted from the exported weight, for which purpose specimens of all such fittings must be supplied to Customs. Duty will also be refunded on the manufacturing waste of the above material provided this is kept by the manufacturer and rendered unusable. The maximum permitted level of waste will be determined in each case by Ministerial Order. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 460/461.

Israel

Prohibited imports. The Israeli Ministry of Finance has issued the following list of goods prohibited from import for a period of six months from 10 November 1974, the date the economy measures were announced. This list replaces the unofficial list issued by the Tel Aviv Chamber of Commerce and published in *Trade and Industry*, 28 November 1974.

Product	Customs item no.
Dried fruit	08.01-2000 08.01-3000 08.01-4000 08.01-9920 08.02-9900 08.03-2000 08.05 08.12
Confectionery and chewing gum	11.02-2009 17.04
Mineral waters	22.01-1000 30.03-2000
Beer	22.03
Cement	25.23-1000
Plywoods	44.15-2000 44.15-1500
Carpets	58.01 58.02
Precious fabrics	58.04-4000 58.04-9900 58.09-1032 58.09-1039 58.10-3091 58.10-3099 60.01-1020 60.01-1090 60.01-2091 60.01-2099
Footwear	64.01 64.02-9900 64.04 64.03
Wall tiles	69.07 69.08
Sanitary ware of ceramic	69.10-1000 69.10-9900
Domestic articles made of ceramic	69.11 69.12
Statuettes and other articles of ceramic	69.13 69.14
Lamps of glass	70.14-4000
Bath tubs	73.38-1010
Air conditioning plant	84.12
Refrigerators of a capacity exceeding 16 cu. ft.	84.15-2019
Dishwashing and drying machines	84.19-1000
Vacuum cleaners	85.06-1000
Food grinders and mixers up to 25 kg.	85.06-2019
Other electric appliances	85.06-9900
Hair dryers	85.12-2000
Sound receivers combined with other apparatus; sound receivers operated by thermionic valves	85.15-4010
Sound receivers designed for installing into motor vehicles	85.15-4020 85.15-4035
amplifiers (requires permit)	85.14
Television sets	85.15-4013 85.15-4014 85.15-4041 85.15-4049 87.02-1090
Passenger cars	87.02-1090
Pleasure boats or inflatable sports boats	89.01-1000 89.01-2090
Gramophones	92.11-9910
Other sound receivers	92.11-9990
Furniture (permit required)	94.01 94.03
Works of art, antiques and statuary	99.01 99.02 99.03 99.05 99.06

No further information is available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 420/473.

Tariff amendments. The Israeli authorities have issued the following amendments to the customs tariff:

Item no.	Description	Rate of duty
44.15 2010	Subsection 2010 is superseded by: If released before 1.4.75	20% *ad val.* but not less than IL.450 per cu. m.
84.40 3013	The words 'does not exceed 10 kg.' are superseded by 'does not exceed 20 kg.'	
84.54 7000	The following is inserted after section 6000: Mechanisms to take in coins and mechanisms for stamping only, provided: 1 that they are used in the assembly of machines operated by dropping a coin for stamping medical prescriptions	
	2 they are released before 1.10.75	10% *ad val.*
87.01	In paragraphs 9922 and 9932, 'before 1.11.74' is superseded by 'before 1.1.75'	
87.02	In paragraphs 6022, 6032, 6062 and 6092 'before 1.11.74' is superseded by 'before 1.1.75'	

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 420/475.

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Purchase tax amendments. The Israeli authorities have issued amendments to the Purchase Tax Order which affect the following items:

Chocolates, chocolate coated foodstuffs and other sweets (0107); dried fruits, fruit jelly, other preserves (0108); toilet perparations (0403); furniture (1099); office machines, office or business equipment and furniture, stationery (1399); motor vehicles (1507 and 1508); fruit juices, sweetened and fermented fruit beverages (0103); elevators, escalators or parts thereof (1119); certain paper articles (1203); handkerchiefs, bed and table linen, bathroom and kitchen linen (0205); towels and dusters (0206); yarn (0201)

The figures in brackets are Israeli Purchase Tax numbers and British exporters with inquiries should specify the numbers in which they are interested. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 420/475.

Zaire

Imports of iron and steel. The Banque du Zaire, in its Circular 146, has announced that iron and steel products under BN tariff headings 73.09.10, 73.10.20, 73.10.30, 73.10.91, 73.10.99, 73.11.91, 73.13 (except 73.13.32, 73.13.44 and 73.13.44 and 73.13.45), 73.14.21, 73.14.29 and 73.21 (except 73.21.20 and 73.21.35) can no longer be imported under the 'declaration d'importation' system. In future, imports will require a 'licence d'importation' which requires the prior approval of the Banque du Zaire. Inquiries: OTAR 461/471/472/473.

South Africa

Tariff changes. The following amendments were published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 29 November 1974:

R2227 BN 73.27: Specific provision, free of duty, is made for four drinier wire material, of iron or steel, being woven wire material of which the warp or the weft or both consists of stranded wire.

INDUSTRIAL REBATES

R2228 Item 311.30 and BN 76.04:

1 The provision for a rebate of duty on certain materials for the manufacture of roller blinds is extended to cover the manufacture of all interior blinds.

2 Provision is made for a rebate of the full duty on certain aluminium foil for the manufacture of thinner aluminium foil.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 471/472/473/462.

Tariff application. Customs Tariff Application List 650, published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 13 December 1974, contains an application to the Board of Trade and Industries for increases in duty on the following:

1 Certain knitted and crocheted garments classifiable under tariff subheadings 60.05.53 and 60.05.55
2 Plates, sheets, strip, film and foil, including tiles of vinyl chloride polymers and copolymers, on a backing of asbestos classifiable under tariff subheading 39.02.50.53
3 Certain towelling, bath mats, napkins, face cloths and dusters classifiable under tariff subheadings 55.08.90, 50.20.10, 61.04.10, 62.02.57, 62.02.65, 62.05.10, 62.05.15
4 Certain plates, sheets, strip, film and foil, including tiles and floor coverings of vinyl chloride polymers and copolymers classifiable under tariff subheadings 39.02.50.53, 39.07.20.15, 59.10.20
5 Saw banding and endless sawbands serrated classifiable under tariff subheading 82.02.87

British trade organisations thought to be interested in the application are being informed. Any British firm affected which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and Industries and belongs to a trade organisation should, therefore, first contact its own trade association.

If any firm proposes to make independent representations to the South African authorities and requires further information concerning the application, it should address inquiries to CRE tel. 01-215 5274.

Sierra Leone

Currency. The following Notice to Importers was published in the *Sierra Leone Gazette* of 28 November 1974:

Govt. Notice No. 1195

NOTICE TO ALL TRAVELLERS

It is hereby notified that the Bank of Sierra Leone has introduced a CURRENCY declaration Form (Form 'M') which should be completed in duplicate by all travellers entering Sierra Leone. With effect from 1 December 1974 the Comptroller of Customs will require all travellers to declare in full, the amount of foreign currency, precious stones and jewellery in their possession at the time of their arrival in Sierra Leone. Visitors to Sierra Leone are warned that in case they wish to take out any part of the foreign currency, precious stones or jewellery declared at the time of their arrival they should retain this form with them and should produce it to the Customs at the time of their departure from Sierra Leone. Persons who fail to comply with this notice or who make a false declaration are liable to prosecution.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 473/472/471/462.

Bills of Entry. The following Notice to Importers, dated 12 November 1974, was published in the *Sierra Leone Gazette* of 28 November 1974:

Govt. Notice No. 1220

Importers are hereby notified that the brands detailed, description or make and type of the following commodities are required to be shown on Import Bills of Entry in addition to the particulars required in accordance with the Import List:

Item no.	Commodity description	Additional break down required
011-090	Other meat and meat offals, fresh, chilled or frozen	Detailed description: eg mutton, beef
012-120	Salted and smoked pig meat nes	Detailed description: eg pig's feet
013-810	Corned meat in air-tight containers	Brand: eg Swift, Libbys
022-120	Milk and cream, etc.	Brand: eg Peak, Carnation, Gloria, Libbys
022-200	Milk and cream, etc.	Brand: Klim, Cowlac
023-000	Butter	Detailed description and brand: eg Butter, Fresh Anchor, Tinned Busck
032-011	Sardines and pilchards	Detailed description brands: eg Star Brand Sardines, Okum Kom
032-012	Salmon	Salmon
048-840	Malt extract, etc.	Detailed description: eg Ovaltine, Horlicks
046-010	Flour of wheat or meslin	Brand: eg Gold Medal, Famous
061-100	Beet and cane sugar refined	Detailed description: eg Granulated, Cube, St. Louis, Tate and Lyle
072-400	Cocoa powder, butter and cocoa paste	Brand: eg Bournville, Fry
074-000	Tea and mate	Brand: eg Liptons, Bonds
099-099	Other miscellaneous food preparation	Detailed description: eg Marmite
112-310	Stout and porter	Brand: eg Guinness
112-390	Other beer made from malt	Brand: eg Allsopps, Jeffreys, Tennents
112-410	Brandy	Brand: eg Martell, Remy Martin
112-420	Gin (including Schnapps)	Brand: eg Gordons, Booths, Schnapps
112-430	Rum	Brand: eg Gilbeys, Caroni, Navy, Lemon Hart, Captain Morgan
112-440	Whisky	Brand: eg White Horse, Johnnie Walker-Red Label, Black and White
122-200	Cigarettes	Brand: eg Benson and Hedges, Consulate
122-390	Tobacco manufactured (including pipe and chewing tobacco) nes	Brand: eg Capstan, Three Nuns, Players
554-120	Common (washing) soap, etc.	Brand: eg Sunlight, Key Pale
629-110	Outer covers for cycles	
629-120	Outer covers for motor cycles, passenger cars, etc.	Detailed description:
629-130	Outer covers for trucks (lorries) and buses	Make and type:
629-140	Outer covers for tractors and earth movers	Dunlop 6 ply, 600 × 16
According to classification	Agriculture machinery, etc.	Detailed description: make and type
	Tractors other than steam	Make and type
	Road motor vehicles	Make and type: eg Austin, Ford, Morris, new and first importation, used and first importation, re-imported
717-310	Sewing machine, complete	Make and type: eg Singer, Koyo, Butterfly, Necchi
719-121	Air conditioners not exceeding 3 h.p., complete	Make and type: eg Philco, Carrier, Westinghouse
719-129	Other air conditioning machinery complete	Make and type: eg Philco, Carrier, Westinghouse
724-100	Television broadcast receivers, etc.	Make and type: eg Philips nes
725-011	Domestic refrigerators, electric, complete	Make and type: GEC, Atlas, Electrolux
729-111	Primary batteries and cells specialised for use in hearing aids	Brand: eg Berec, Ever-Ready
729-119	Primary batteries and cells nes	Brand: eg Berec, Ever-Ready

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 473/472/471/462.

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Department of Trade
1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section,
Export Data Branch
Export Services and Promotions Division
Department of Trade
Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

Portuguese Overseas Territories

Tariff amendments. Portuguese *Diario do Governo* No. 254, 31 October 1974, published Decree 555/74 which authorises the following addition to the import tariffs of the Portuguese Overseas Territories:

BN 29.35 Heterocyclic compounds, nucleic acids:
08 Not specified
Note: Goods intended for the treatment of malaria may be imported free of duty.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 460/461.

Mozambique

Import permits. Notification has been received that import permits are being granted for essential materials only, including (from time to time) machinery, but their issue is most restricted. The commercial banks continue to issue letters of credit, on the understanding that they will be able to release funds to customers only as and when foreign exchange becomes available; this often entails a delay of three to four months. The commercial banks will generally give preference to existing contracts over new ones. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-212 5794.

Thailand

Fuel oils: duties reduced. The Thai Ministry of Finance announced on 30 October reduced import duties on goods under tariff heading 27.10 as follows:

Item no.	Classification	Rates of duty: Regular Baht/litre	Rates of duty: Reduced to Baht/litre
27.10 a	Benzine and similar oils for engines	1.30	1.10
b	Kerosene and similar oils for lighting	0.33	0.13
c	Heavy fuel oil for use in boiler furnaces	0.12	0.02

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 401/468/469.

Australia

Discontinuous man-made fibre yarns, knitted fabrics, towels and towelling. IAC reference. The Industries Assistance Commission has been asked to inquire and report on whether the Australian Government should accord assistance to the production in Australia of goods falling within the following items or parts of items in Schedule 1 to the Customs Tariff 1966-73: 55.08, 56.05.2, 56.05.3, 60.01.1, 60.01.99, 60.05.2, 60.02.6 and, if so, the nature and extent of such assistance. Ref. CRE 1295/74. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-212 5318/5319.

New Zealand

Ethyl alcohol and spirits: sales tax. The New Zealand Minister of Customs has announced changes in the method of calculating sales tax on goods covered by the following Brussels nomenclature classification headings:

22.08.009; 22.09.002,009,023,029,033,039,043,049,051 to 059, and 061 to 069.

Sales tax for these goods will be calculated on (a) value of goods, plus (b) amount of customs duty, plus (c) 25 per cent of (a). Inquiries: OTAR ext. 401/468/469.

Canada

Microwave ovens. The Canadian Department of Health and Welfare has issued Information Letter 432 concerning amendments to the regulations on radiation emitting devices for microwave ovens. The regulations establish standards of design, construction and use. Details are available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 455/456/457.

United States

Federal Register notices. Notices of interest to British exporters have been published in the United States *Federal Register* on the dates shown in parentheses:

Automobile emission standards. Guidelines by the EPA for a manufacturer of light duty vehicles who wishes to apply for one year's suspension from the emission standards (applied by 1977) of hydrocarbons and carbon monoxides (3 December 1974).
Noise emission. The closing date for written comments on noise emission standards for medium and heavy duty trucks has been extended to 31 December 1974 (3 December 1974).
Portable air compressors. The closing date for written comments on noise emission standards has been extended to 31 December 1974 (3 December 1974).
Seat belt assemblies. Details of amendments to Standard No. 208 for a new warning system for seat belt assemblies, mandatory from 24 February 1975 (6 December 1974).
Food safety. FDA proposals for tolerances of added poisonous and deleterious substances affecting fish and shellfish, evaporated milk and food packaging materials. Written comments (five copies) invited before 6 March 1975 (6 December 1974).
Hazardous materials. A proposal by the Hazardous Materials Board to adopt a standardised form 'Hazardous Materials Manifest' which will require specific information to be supplied for the transport of hazardous materials. An informal public hearing in Washington is scheduled for 11 February 1975 and written comments before 7 March 1975 (10 December 1974).

A copy of the text is available in each case. Inquiries: OTAR ext 456/457/7312.

Registered trade marks

The lists of tariff, customs and import regulation changes in overseas countries published in this section of *Trade and Industry* sometimes contain words which are registered trade marks in the United Kingdom. So far as is practicable, all lists of goods are checked before publication from this point of view. Items which fall into this category are preceded by the letters rtm. Readers should note that this prefix signifies that the words are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom but that in the present context are assumed to refer generally to products of the descriptions stated in brackets. While every attempt will be made to ensure that the scrutiny is complete, the lists may contain other words which are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom or in other countries but which it has not been possible to identify.

CRE tel. Direct dialling **OTAR** telephone 01-248 5757
Extensions to **OTAR** numbers are given at the end of each notice

Dominican Republic

Consumption tax on imports. The Dominican Republic's Law 69 extends from 1 January 1975 for a further year the consumption tax rate of 20 per cent. This tax, originally levied at a rate of 10 per cent, was increased to 20 per cent by Law 234 of December 1967. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

Prohibition of goods for apiculture. The Dominican Republic's Law 62 prohibits the importation of queen bees and bees in general, bees' honey and bees' wax in any form and utensils, articles and equipment for bee-keeping purposes. Occasional imports of queen bees will be allowed subject to certain conditions. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

Jamaica

Processed food standards. The *Jamaican Gazette* supplement of 10 October 1974 published the Standards (Labelling and Processed Food) Regulations 1974. These regulations, which came into effect on 1 October 1974, supersede the Processed Foods (General) Regulations 1959 and are far more comprehensive. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 7312/456/457.

Montserrat

Potatoes: consumption tax. The Montserrat authorities by SRO No. 9 of 1974 state that the consumption tax on 1 lb. of potatoes (not including sweet potatoes) will be 15c. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 7312/456/457.

Brazil

Hundred per cent import duty increases. Brazil's decree law 1364 mentioned in *Trade and Industry*, 17 December 1974, has now been received and is being translated. Inquirers needing only the new duty rates should telephone the extensions given below. This information is readily available. Tariff statements will take longer to provide because of translation and typing time. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

Chile

Exchange rates. The Chilean Central Bank has announced the following revised exchange rates effective from 10 December 1974:

'Bank' rate raised from 1,450 escudos to 1,680 escudos per US dollar.

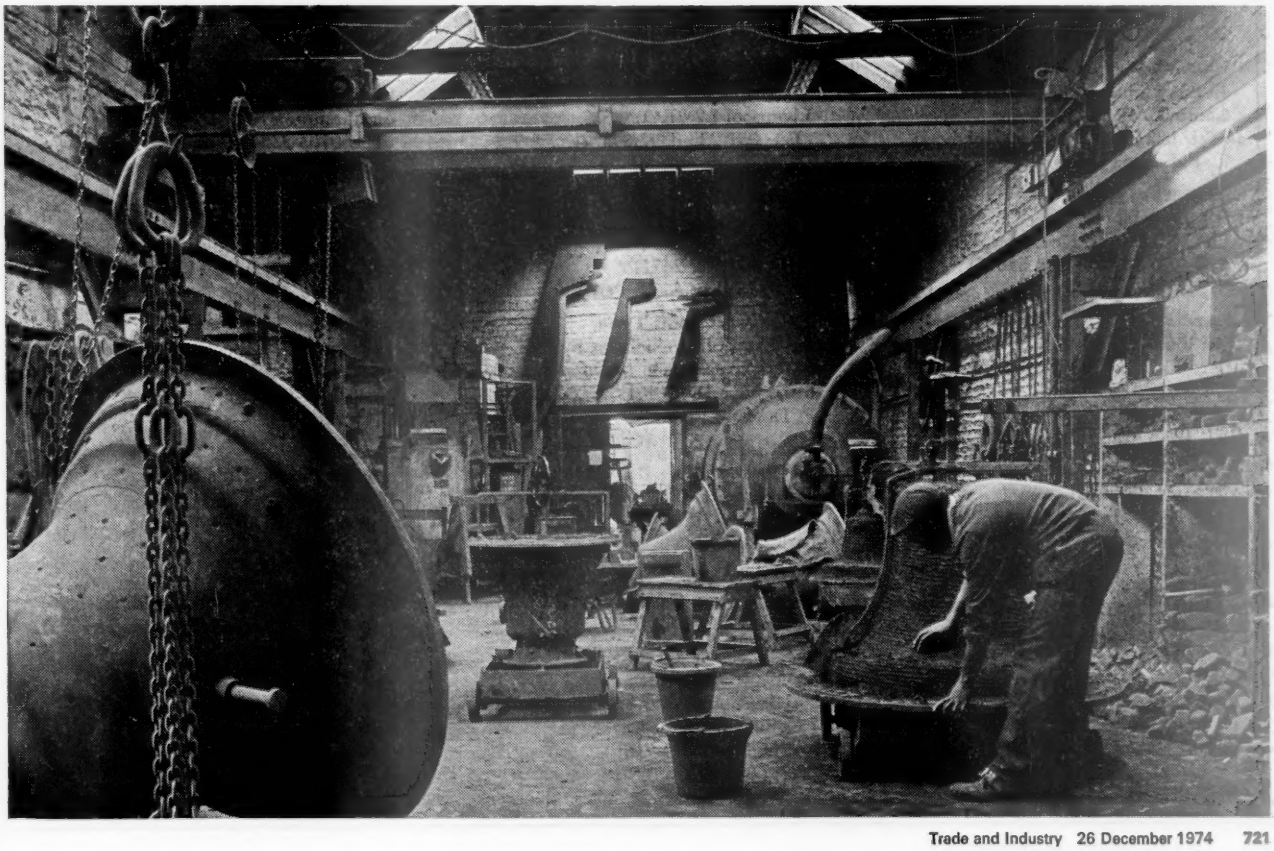
'Brokers' rate raised from 1,560 escudos to 1,800 escudos per US dollar.

Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5289.

Two of a number of seasonal sets of stamps produced in Britain for overseas governments. The set for Guyana was designed by S. Greaves of Guyana and R. Granger Barrett of England. The flower design for Botswana was the work of M. F. Bryan.

Ringing in the exports

The 400-year-old Whitechapel Bell Foundry, London, which has a thriving export business, is working on one of its biggest overseas orders in recent times. The order is for 2,400 small replicas of the Liberty Bell for the bicentenary in 1976 of America's Declaration of Independence. The foundry made the original Liberty Bell in 1752 and has recently made full-size replicas for United States' customers: the moulding case is seen on the left of the picture (bottom of page) of the main foundry floor, where Big Ben was also cast. The method of bell casting, and the layout of the foundry have changed little over the centuries. The family firm, with nearly 40 employees, is run by two brothers—William A. and Douglas Hughes. The three pictures immediately below show: (left) recast church bells awaiting transit to Australia; (centre) an apprentice tuning by ear – though most of the tuning these days is done by a highly skilled craftsman using electronic aids; (right), the ceramic shell being removed from one of the miniature Liberty Bells.



Official Receivers' offices

Official Receivers are responsible for the administration of cases in bankruptcy and compulsory liquidation. Inquiries should be addressed to the nearest Official Receiver

High Court of Justice
Senior Official Receiver: A. T. Cheek

Bankruptcy
Thomas More Building, Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2JY (Tel: 01-405 7641)
Official Receivers: D. A. Thorne; J. Tye

Companies Winding-up
Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London EC1N 2HD (Tel: 01-583 8931)
Official Receivers: L. R. Bates; N. Saddler; D. A. Williams

Birmingham
Commercial Union House, Martineau Square, Birmingham B2 4UP (Tel: 021-236 8831/7)
A. D. Gwyther; J. F. Hirst

Bournemouth
Burlington Arcade, Bournemouth BH1 2JS (Tel: 0202-28208/9)
A. H. Horler

Bradford
West Riding House, Cheapside, Bradford BD1 4LJ (Tel: 0274-33651/2)
V. Duffy

Brighton
Windsor House (East Entrance), 30-35 Edward Street, Brighton BN2 2JZ (Tel: 0273-64301/2)
J. F. O'Reilly

Bristol
Sun Alliance House, 4 Colston Avenue, Bristol BS1 4BN (Tel: 0272-290268)
D. S. Clackett

Cambridge
49 Bateman Street, Cambridge CB2 1LT (Tel: 0223-53930 and 59646)
R. F. Savage

Canterbury
Lombard House, 12-17 Upper Bridge Street, Canterbury (Tel: 0227-62070 and 65037)
A. R. Haigh

Cardiff
3rd Floor, Hayes House, The Hayes, Cardiff CF1 2UG (Tel: 0222-30575)
B. J. Longley

Chester
Dee Hills Park, Chester CH3 5AR (Tel: 0244-21471/2)
K. Matthewson

Croydon
Park House, 22 Park Street, Croydon CR9 1TX (Tel: 01-681 2633)
R. A. D. Copper

Exeter
Eastgate House, High Street, Exeter EX4 3JU (Tel: 0392-55445)
A. J. Seldon

Gloucester
Grosvenor House, Station Road, Gloucester GL1 1ST (Tel: 0452-21658/9)
H. W. Kirkwood

Hull
Beverley House, St. Stephen's Square, Hull HU1 3XF (Tel: 0482-23720 and 23729)
J. E. Friend

Ipswich
St. Clare House, Greyfriars, Ipswich IP1 1LX (Tel: 0473-56731)
T. A. Tuck

Leeds
Pearl Chambers, East Parade, Leeds LS1 5BX (Tel: 0532-28011/2)
W. A. Bishop

Leicester
Prospect House, 94 Regent Road, Leicester LE1 7DE (Tel: 0533-22251/3)
H. Roach

Liverpool
West Africa House, 25 Water Street, Liverpool L2 0RQ (Tel: 051-236 8397/8)
R. W. F. Pagan

Manchester
Townbury House, 11 Blackfriars Street, Salford M3 5AB (Tel: 061-832 2471)
K. A. Miller; A. N. Percy

Newcastle upon Tyne
3rd Floor, 4 St. Nicholas Buildings, St. Nicholas Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1RF (Tel: 0632-21104/5)
F. Durkin

Northampton
6 Cheyne Walk, Northampton NN1 5QA (Tel: 0604-37288/9)
R. F. Savage

Norwich
Davey House, Castle Meadow, Norwich NOR O2D (Tel: 0603-28983/4)
T. A. Tuck

Nottingham
1 Collin Street, Nottingham NG1 7EP (Tel: 0602-51596/8)
W. W. Jordan

Plymouth
63 New George Street, Plymouth PL1 1RD (Tel: 0752-68554)
A. J. Seldon

Reading
PO Box No. 40, Somerset House, 3 Blagrave Street, Reading RG1 1QE (Tel: 0734-581931/5)
R. G. Goddard

Rochester
Gordon House, Star Hill, Rochester (Tel: 0634-42603 and 46906)
A. R. Haigh

St. Annes
Petros House, St. Andrews Road North, Lytham St. Annes FY8 2JD (Tel: 039-15-21271)
M. Clark

Sheffield
8/12 Furnival Gate, The Moor, Sheffield S1 4QN (Tel: 0742-26691/3)
T. Wilks

Southampton
21 London Road, Southampton SO9 1NQ (Tel: 0703-23348/9 and 23340)
A. H. Horler

Southend
2nd Floor, Colman House, Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea SS2 6EF (Tel: 0702-41316/7)
F. L. Sage

Stockton
4 Bridge Road, Stockton-on-Tees, Teesside TS18 3BP (Tel: 0642-65598/9)
F. Durkin

Stoke
London House, Hide Street, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 1QN (Tel: 0782-45256/8)
A. K. Sales

Swansea
5th Floor, Sun Alliance Building, 166/167 Helens Road, Swansea SA1 5DL (Tel: 0792-42861)
P. W. Nunn

Watford
40 Clarendon Road, Watford WD1 1HJ (Tel: 0923-44288)
F. L. Sage

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series expressed as index numbers and seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
			Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Distributive and service industries	Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Wholesalers	of which: Retailers	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index	1970	1970	1970	1970	1970							
£m in base year		31,404	9,223	2,130	2,089	series in £ million				series in £ million		
1969	99	98	98	95	92	416		42	33	445	−143	588
1970	100	100	100	100	100	257	324	68	−23	685	−9	694
1971	101	103	100	94	102	−7	−126	52	−4	1,050	285	765
1972	104	109	103	85	115	−39	205	48	3	72	−677	749
1973	109	114	108	90	121	674	374	32	242	−1,198	−2,355	1,157
1972 1st qtr.	101	108	103	90	107	−36	−62	17	−16	84	−121	205
2nd qtr.	104	108	103	84	115	−27	−106	1	38	121	−64	185
3rd qtr.	104	110	102	82	115	−13	−42	6	−13	−114	−284	170
4th qtr.	106	111	105	83	123	−37	7	24	−6	−19	−208	189
1973 1st qtr.	110	115	111	89	128	257	146	11	32	−192	−351	159
2nd qtr.	109	112	104	86	112	202	61	−9	163	−197	−399	202
3rd qtr.	110	114	109	91	120	94	68	6	22	−272	−602	330
4th qtr.	110	114	109	94	124	121	99	24	25	−537	−1,003	466
1974 1st qtr.	108	114	111	99	111	−258	−100	8	−73	−964	−1,279	315
2nd qtr.	110	112	102	99	107	216	138	42	11	−990	−1,363	373
3rd qtr.				95	115		216	−30	−28	−981	−1,162	381
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.	−1.6	−0.9	−2.9	+0.7	−5.9							
on a year earlier	−1.4	−0.6	−1.2	+9.6	−4.6							

	Index of industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and costs					Labour			Trade§	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Index of retail prices: Index‡	Index of retail prices: % increase on a year earlier	Index of wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: basic materials and fuel used‡	Index of wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: manufactured products: home sales‡	Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services)‡	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: mid-month count	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: % of total employees	Unfilled vacancies for adults: mid-month count	Exports	Imports
				monthly averages						thousands		thousands	monthly averages	
Base of index	1970	1970	1971		Jan 16, 1962		1970	1970	July 31, 1972				Series in	
£m in base year			15,895	thousands						thousands		thousands	£ million	
1970	100.0	100.0	99.0	91.4	140.2	6.4	100.0	100.0	78.5	568	2.5	186	658	659
1971	100.4	99.6	100.0	108.5	153.4	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	737	3.2	129	733	709
1972	102.4	102.0	105.8	138.6	164.3	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	816	3.6	145	761	818
1973	109.9	110.5	110.7	137.3	179.4	9.2	144.4	123.2•	115.5	581	2.6	304	955	1,151
1972 4th qtr.	105.8	106.0	109.2	144	169.4	7.7	115.6	118.0	107.8	750	3.3	179	871	940
1973 1st qtr.	109.9	109.9	111.8	152	172.4	8.0	126.0	119.5	108.8	667	2.9	228	878	995
2nd qtr.	109.6	110.1	108.3	136	177.9	9.3	133.3	120.1•	112.6	605	2.6	289	931	1,064
3rd qtr.	110.7	111.4	110.6	143	180.2	9.2	160.8	124.2	118.4	562	2.5	334	996	1,197
4th qtr.	109.4	110.4	112.0	119	186.8	10.3	167.6	129.1	120.9	489	2.2	364	1,013	1,348
1974 1st qtr.	103.4	105.5	109.9	103	101.4†	12.9	214.3	138.4	125.0	543	2.4	285	1,136	1,562
2nd qtr.	107.8	109.3	107.5	104	107.5	15.8	215.8	148.9	131.7	552	2.4	309	1,304	1,758
3rd qtr.	109.0	110.6	111.0	108	110.2	17.0	216.1	155.8	142.7	600	2.7	306	1,391	1,778
1973 Sept.	110.8	111.6	110.8	129	181.8	9.3	154.7	125.8	120.0	542	2.4	349	1,044	1,239
Oct.	111.6	112.3	111.2	127	185.4	9.9	161.7	127.7	120.3	512	2.3	363	988	1,385
Nov.	110.5	111.9	112.1	126	186.8	10.3	166.0	129.0	121.0	486	2.2	368	1,028	1,304
Dec.	106.2	107.0	112.6	103	188.2	10.6	175.1	130.6	122.0	470	2.1	362	1,025	1,354
1974 Jan.	101.2	102.3	109.2	93	191.8	12.0	210.7	134.1	123.7	535	2.4	304	1,012	1,396
Feb.	103.1	106.6	110.2	109	101.7†	13.2	215.1	138.5	124.7	549	2.4	278	1,157	1,599
Mar.	105.7	107.0	110.1	106	102.6	13.5	217.0	142.2	126.5	545	2.4	274	1,225	1,692
Apr.	107.3	109.0	108.1	96	106.1	15.2	217.4	146.3	127.6	546	2.4	297	1,277	1,667
May	107.5	108.6	105.8	105	107.6	15.9	216.0	148.9	131.5	548	2.4	314	1,294	1,776
June	108.6	110.4	108.3	111	108.7	16.5	213.9	151.1	136.1	561	2.5	317	1,341	1,832
July	109.5	111.0	109.3	105	109.7	17.1	214.6	153.5	138.7	582	2.6	317	1,340	1,813
Aug.	109.4	111.4	111.5	102	109.8	16.9	216.7	156.1	145.2	606	2.7	298	1,391	1,711
Sept.	108.1	109.4	112.3	118	111.0	17.1	216.3	158.6	145.9	612	2.7	303	1,443	1,812
Oct.	107.9	108.5	111.6	102	113.2	17.1	223.7 p	162.2 p	148.0	607	2.7	297	1,346	1,781
Nov.			112 p	95	115.2	18.3	228.5 p	165.0 p		608 p	2.7 p	276 p	1,297 p	1,831 p
% change latest 3 months on prev. 3 months	−0.1	−0.2	+3.7	−0.9	+3.4		+3.6	+5.4	+8.1	+7.9		−5.3	+0.3	+1.3
on a year earlier	−2.2	−1.7	+0.9	−17.5	+17.5		+38.6	+27.0	+21.5	+12.9		−13.8	+33.5	+38.1

(‡) Not seasonally adjusted. (§) On a balance of payments basis. • After April 1973, affected by changes due to VAT † Base of index Jan 1974 = 100.

Index of retail prices for November

The index of retail prices for all items for 12 November 1974 was 115.2 (15 January 1974 = 100). This represents an increase of 1.8 per cent on October (113.2) and of 18.3 per cent on November 1973.

The rise in the index in November was due to higher prices for domestic coal and coke, sugar, milk, second-hand cars, clothing and many other goods and services.

The movements for the main groups of the index are shown in Table 2.

Symbols used in all statistical tables

.. not available	r revised
— nil or less than half	* five week period
the final digit shown	ø fifty-three week
p provisional	period

TABLE 1 Rates of change

	All items				All items except seasonal food			
	Index 15 January 1974 = 100	Index 16 January 1962 = 100	Percentage change over 1 month	Percentage change over 12 months	Index 15 January 1974 = 100	Index 16 January 1962 = 100	Percentage change over 1 month	Percentage change over 6 months
1974 June	108.7	208.5	+1.0	+16.5	108.6	205.7	+0.8	+10.5
July	109.7	210.4	+0.9	+17.1	110.0	208.3	+1.3	+10.0
August	109.8	210.6	+0.1	+16.9	110.3	208.9	+0.3	+8.2
September	111.0	212.9	+1.1	+17.1	111.5	211.2	+1.1	+8.5
October	113.2	217.1	+2.0	+17.1	113.7	215.3	+2.0	+7.0
November	115.2	221.0	+1.8	+18.3	115.6	218.9	+1.7	+7.3

TABLE 2 General index of retail prices

	Indices (15 Jan. 1974 = 100)		Percentage change over the month
	15 Oct. 1974	12 Nov. 1974	
All items	113.2	115.2	+1.8
All items excluding food	114.2	115.8	+1.4
Food	110.4	113.3	+2.6
Seasonal food	104.6	105.7	+1.1
Other food	111.8	115.0	+2.9
Alcoholic drink	115.4	116.0	+0.5
Tobacco	121.6	121.6	Nil
Housing	107.1	108.6	+1.4
Fuel and light	116.0	120.4	+3.8
Durable household goods	113.7	115.3	+1.4
Clothing and footwear	115.1	116.3	+1.0
Transport and vehicles	115.0	117.1	+1.8
Miscellaneous goods	120.1	121.6	+1.2
Services	111.7	113.2	+1.3
Meals out	113.8	115.3	+1.3

New companies incorporated in Northern Ireland during November

During November 46 private companies and one public company with a total nominal capital of £921,400 were incorporated in Northern Ireland.

During the period January–November 520 companies with a total nominal capital of £8,698,050 were incorporated as compared with 667 companies with a total nominal capital of £6,870,761 incorporated in the same period in 1973.

Treasury Broadsheets: the National Debt and Balance of Payments

Two more Treasury Broadsheets are now available.

The National Debt (third in the series on public finance) explains how the debt arose, traces its history, looks at its relationship to the economy generally and to the taxpayer, and gives details of its current ownership and how it is bought and sold.

That on *The Balance of Payments* (second in the series on Britain's economy) describes the different accounts which together make up the national payments position, and explains how they balance.

Treasury Broadsheets are designed for readers without specialised economic knowledge. They are printed in colour and illustrated with bold tables and diagrams. Copies are available free from Publications Division, Central Office of Information, Hercules Road, London SE1 7DU.

Paper and board production in the United Kingdom

	Gross production (in '000 tonnes)			Index of industrial production for paper and board (1970 = 100)	
	Total	Paper	Board	Unadjusted	Adjusted for normal seasonal fluctuations
1972	4,374	3,166	1,208	92.7	92.7
1973	4,708	3,430	1,278	99.9	99.9
1973 1st quarter	1,247	905	342	105.1	101.5
2nd quarter	1,221	887	334	103.3	99.6
3rd quarter	1,059	778	281	89.8	98.6
4th quarter	1,181	860	321	101.2	99.5
1974 1st quarter	1,197	871	327	101.1	97.7
2nd quarter	1,230	893	336	104.8	101.0
3rd quarter	1,062	778	284	89.9	98.8
1973 October*	97.7	71.6	26.1	108.2	101.1
November*	95.6	69.8	25.8	105.2	98.8
December*	81.6	59.0	22.6	90.3	98.8
1974 January*	86.0	62.5	23.5	93.7	90.6
February*	95.0	68.6	26.4	104.4	99.8
March*	94.6	69.2	25.4	105.2	102.9
April*	95.7	68.7	27.0	104.5	103.4
May*	95.6	69.9	25.6	106.7	100.2
June*	92.9	67.7	25.2	103.1	99.5
July*	79.9	58.1	21.8	86.7	100.4
August*	76.6	57.3	19.4	87.2	100.7
September*	87.1	63.4	23.7	95.7	95.5
October*	98.1	70.4	27.7	106.5	99.4

* Weekly rate during four or five week periods.

Further details on production of various grades of paper and board, together with wholesale prices and other statistical information on the paper and board industry have now been published in Business Monitor PM 481, Paper and paper-making materials, October 1974.

The metric change

Going Metric is the quarterly bulletin of the Metrication Board. As the metric change is taking place around us *Going Metric* provides information of what is happening in Government, in industry, in education. *Going Metric* is free from the Information Office, J Metrication Board, 22 Kingsway, London WC2B 6LE.

Index of industrial production in October

The provisional estimate index of production for October 1974, prepared by the Central Statistical Office, is 107.9 (seasonally adjusted). For manufacturing industry alone the figure is 108.5.

For the three months August 1974 to October 1974, it is provisionally estimated that production as a whole was 0.1 per cent lower than the figures for the preceding three months, May 1974 to July 1974; for manufacturing industry alone there was a decrease of 0.2 per cent.

The average index numbers of the latest three months and the previous three months shown at the foot of the table give a general guide to the changes which have taken place in the output of the major groups in recent months.

Index of industrial production

Seasonally adjusted

1970 = 100

	Total all industries	Mining and quarrying	Manufacturing industries												
			Total	Food, drink and tobacco					Engineering and allied industries						
				Total	Food	Drink and tobacco	Coal and petroleum products	Chemicals and allied industries	Total	Mechanical engineering	Instrument engineering	Electrical engineering	Shipbuilding and marine engineering	Total vehicles	Metal goods, n.e.s.
Weights	1,000	37	745	84	52	32	7	58	319	100	15	67	16	73	48
1969	99.7	104.9	99.4	98.6	99.6	96.8	92.1	95.0	99.8	97.0	92.4	97.1	94.8	105.9	104.1
1970	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1971	100.4	99.7	99.6	100.7	100.1	101.7	103.4	102.2	99.1	100.1	100.8	102.6	96.6	98.5	93.3
1972	102.4	84.0	102.0	105.0	104.2	106.4	102.6	108.1	99.3	95.0	93.1	110.3	91.8	101.6	94.2
1973	109.9	93.6	110.5	109.3	106.4	114.0	110.0	121.6	107.2	103.6	101.7	125.9	95.1	101.6	102.7
1972 2nd qtr.	102.8	96.1	101.6	104.7	103.6	106.5	101.7	107.9	98.9	95.3	92.0	107.9	94.1	101.5	94.0
3rd qtr.	103.6	95.5	102.9	105.3	105.2	105.5	107.1	108.7	99.7	92.9	96.0	111.0	91.4	103.6	96.4
4th qtr.	105.8	98.9	106.0	105.5	105.0	106.4	105.2	112.9	102.4	96.0	92.9	116.0	92.5	106.3	97.2
1973 1st qtr.	109.9	99.6	109.9	108.4	106.8	111.1	105.9	119.0	107.0	102.5	102.0	126.4	94.1	102.5	102.1
2nd qtr.	109.6	96.2	110.1	109.6	106.7	113.8	108.4	119.9	106.4	102.2	101.9	126.0	94.1	99.6	103.9
3rd qtr.	110.7	94.7	111.4	110.2	105.9	117.1	115.2	123.4	108.3	104.8	102.0	125.2	95.7	104.1	104.5
4th qtr.	109.4	84.1	110.4	109.0	106.0	114.0	110.7	124.2	106.9	104.9	101.2	126.0	96.4	100.2	100.1
1974 1st qtr.	103.4	58.2	105.5	114.7	109.6	123.0	101.9	126.6	101.0	100.4	99.6	120.2	85.7	89.2	98.6
2nd qtr.	107.8	90.8	109.3	110.6	106.3	117.5	110.8	127.1	106.1	104.3	107.8	119.0	97.4	96.7	108.7
3rd qtr.	109.0	93.1	110.6	109.9	104.4	118.9	106.5	131.8	108.8	105.8	107.2	124.2	98.7	100.8	109.8
1973 Dec.	106.2	76	107.0	108	105	112	107	120	103	101	98	123	97	95	97
1974 Jan.	101.2	72	102.3	117	110	130	97	126	98	98	95	119	82	84	95
Feb.	103.1	44	106.6	115	110	123	103	132	102	102	101	122	87	90	99
Mar.	105.7	59	107.0	111	109	116	106	124	103	101	102	120	89	93	102
Apr.	107.3	89	109.0	111	105	121	111	130	105	103	107	118	97	93	108
May	107.5	91	108.6	112	108	118	115	126	106	105	108	119	97	99	108
June	108.6	92	110.4	109	106	114	106	126	107	105	109	120	98	98	110
July	109.5	94	111.0	110	105	119	98	131	109	105	107	123	97	102	113
Aug.	109.4	93	111.4	110	104	120	114	131	110	106	107	124	99	106	110
Sept.	108.1	92	109.4	110	104	119	107	133	108	106	108	125	100	95	107
Oct.	107.9	95	108.5	108	103	117	108	127	108	107	108	125	98	95	109
May-July (av.)	108.5	90	110.0	110	106	117	106	128	107	105	108	121	97	100	110
Aug.-Oct. (av.)	108.5	94	109.8	109	104	119	110	130	109	106	108	125	99	99	109

	Manufacturing industries (continued)												Construction	Gas, electricity and water
	Metal manufacture			Textiles, leather and clothing				Bricks, pottery, glass, etc.						
	Total	Ferrous	Non-ferrous	Total	Textiles	Leather, leather goods and fur	Clothing and footwear	Total	Bricks, cement, etc.	Pottery and glass	Timber, furniture, etc.	Paper, printing and publishing	Other manufacturing industries		
Weights	57	43	14	76	49	3	24	27	17	10	22	64	31	146	72
1969	100.3	100.4	100.0	100.4	100.2	103.0	100.4	103.7	102.7	105.2	99.7	99.3	99.5	102.0	96.2
1970	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1971	91.4	89.4	97.7	102.3	100.7	103.0	105.4	107.7	106.3	109.8	103.0	97.3	99.7	102.9	103.9
1972	90.8	89.2	95.7	104.6	103.0	104.5	107.7	114.2	113.6	115.1	113.5	102.6	104.2	104.5	111.2
1973	99.5	97.3	106.1	109.9	108.6	101.0	113.8	126.2	124.8	128.3	131.7	112.1	116.4	107.3	117.8
1972 2nd qtr.	92.2	90.8	92.5	103.6	102.7	103.7	105.4	114.9	114.3	115.8	113.6	101.3	102.5	106.0	112.3
3rd qtr.	92.7	90.9	98.5	106.7	105.3	105.0	109.9	113.8	113.7	114.0	112.9	103.8	107.0	104.0	114.8
4th qtr.	98.5	96.2	105.9	108.3	107.6	105.6	110.2	123.8	122.0	126.7	119.8	107.4	110.8	102.6	114.2
1973 1st qtr.	99.8	97.8	106.1	110.1	111.1	103.0	109.0	125.6	128.1	121.7	136.5	109.9	115.9	110.3	114.6
2nd qtr.	99.1	96.5	107.2	111.6	110.5	102.3	115.1	125.7	124.3	127.9	131.1	111.8	116.0	106.1	118.7
3rd qtr.	100.0	97.3	108.7	108.7	106.3	99.9	114.8	127.9	124.5	133.2	131.4	114.8	116.4	107.5	117.4
4th qtr.	98.9	97.8	102.5	109.1	106.3	99.0	116.4	125.5	122.4	130.3	127.7	113.0	117.2	105.5	120.6
1974 1st qtr.	88.6	83.5	104.1	99.1	98.9	96.3	99.9	117.2	106.1	133.3	114.8	108.8	111.7	101.7	107.7
2nd qtr.	90.4	85.1	106.8	108.8	106.9	100.6	113.9	122.0	109.0	133.0	116.0	113.1	117.5	99.5	118.0
3rd qtr.	94.2	91.0	104.0	105.6	100.6	98.5	116.8	117.6	109.9	129.7	113.3	115.0	117.1	98.0	123.0
1973 Dec.	98	96	105	105	101	96	113	123	120	127	121	112	107		115
1974 Jan.	84	79	100	93	91	91	96	110	99	126	108	104	106		105
Feb.	90	84	108	98	99	98	97	115	105	131	118	111	112		105
Mar.	92	87	105	106	106	100	107	126	116	142	119	111	117		113
Apr.	91	86	106	110	108	99	114	124	116	137	116	112	116		115
May	84	78	104	105	103	99	110	122	115	131	114	112	116		121
June	96	92	110	112	109	104	118	120	114	131	118	114	120		118
July	95	93	102	107	101	98	120	118	114	124	113	117	118		126
Aug.	100	98	106	107	103	99	117	119	108	136	113	114	111		120
Sept.	87	82	104	103	98	99	114	116	108	129	114	114	123		123
Oct.	88	82	107	104	100	100	114	115	110	122	110	112	115		131
May-July (av.)	92	88	105	108	104	100	116	120	114	129	115	114	118		121
Aug.-Oct. (av.)	92	87	106	105	100	99	115	117	109	129	112	113	116		126

United Kingdom trade. Export and import unit value and volume indices and terms of trade for November

Balance of Payments basis (Table 1)

The export unit value index on a balance of payments basis rose by 2 per cent in November; the import unit value index rose by 1 per cent; and the terms of trade rose by over half a point.

The export unit value index in the three months ended November was 4½ per cent above the average for the previous three months; and the import unit value index was over 1½ per cent above the average for the previous three months. Excluding fuels, the import unit value index shows a rise of 2 per cent above the previous three months.

Overseas Trade Statistics basis (Tables 2 to 4)

Export unit value index numbers

Comparing the average for the three months ended November with the average of the previous three months, the export unit value index for non-manufactures rose by 1 per cent, while the index for manufactured goods rose by 5 per cent. Within manufactures, machinery and transport equipment showed an above average rise of 6½ per cent, chemicals rose by 5 per cent, while textiles and metals showed increases of 4 per cent and 3 per cent, respectively.

Import unit value index numbers

Within the 1½ per cent rise in the total import unit value index for the three months ended November compared with the previous three months manufactured goods rose by nearly 2½ per cent, basic materials by just over 2 per cent, food, drink and tobacco by 1½ per cent, and fuels by half a per cent.

Notes

1 Table 1 is on a balance of payments basis and Tables 2-4 are on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis. The adjustments which have to be made to the figures recorded in the Overseas Trade Statistics to bring them to a balance of payments basis relate either to the coverage of the statistics or to the valuation of items which are recorded. The adjustments are described in detail in the annual Balance of Payments Pink Book. A brief description of the way in which the index numbers on a balance of payments basis are calculated was published in the article giving unit value and volume index numbers for March 1971 in *Trade and Industry* of 26 May 1971.

2 An article was published in *Trade and Industry* on 11 October 1973, and updated in the issue of 12 December 1974, introducing the series of import and export unit value and volume indices with 1970 = 100.

TABLE 1 Import and export unit value and volume index numbers on a balance of payments basis

1970 = 100

		Unit value Index Numbers (Unadjusted)			Volume Index Numbers (Seasonally adjusted)	
		Imports	Exports	Terms of Trade†	Imports	Exports
1971		104.7	105.6	100.8	104.2	106.7
1972		109.6	111.0	101.3	116.4	106.7
1973		139.4	125.7	90.1	131.5	119.2
1972	1st quarter	107.1	110.2	102.9	111.9	104.6
	2nd quarter	107.6	110.7	103.0	114.1	108.9
	3rd quarter	111.4	114.0	102.3	110.8	94.4
	4th quarter	116.5	115.1	98.8	128.8	118.8
1973	1st quarter	123.2	119.2	96.7	128.9	116.7
	2nd quarter	132.8	123.5	93.0	126.8	119.1
	3rd quarter	146.4	128.6	87.9	133.1	121.4
	4th quarter	161.8	135.7	83.9	137.1	119.7
1974	1st quarter	194.5	146.6	75.3	134.4	126.0
	2nd quarter	218.3	159.1	72.9	135.1	130.8
	3rd quarter	223.3	167.4	75.0	134.5	131.6
1973	October	155.1	132.0	85.1	143.6	121.1
	November	160.4	135.5	84.5	133.8	122.8
	December	169.8	139.6	82.2	133.9	115.1
1974	January	178.2	141.7	79.5	133.2	119.3
	February	197.5	146.3	74.1	135.1	128.8
	March	208.0	151.7	72.9	135.0	129.9
	April	214.8	156.2	72.7	132.3	131.7
	May	217.9	158.6	72.8	135.5	130.2
	June	222.2	162.6	73.2	137.4	130.6
	July	222.3	164.1	73.8	137.5	130.6
	August	224.0	167.9	74.9	131.0	130.7
	September	223.5	170.2	76.1	135.0	133.6
	October p	226.9	171.6	75.6	127.5	125.6
	November p	229.2	174.8	76.3	132.3	122.7
Average 3 months ending:						
1974	August	222.8	164.9	74.0	135.3	130.6
	November	226.5	172.2	76.0	131.6	127.3

Note: Figures are shown to one decimal place to assist users, but small month to month movements may have little significance.

† Export Unit Value index as a percentage of the Import Unit Value index.

p Provisional estimates.

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TABLE 2 Import and export unit value index numbers (unadjusted) (Overseas Trade Statistics basis) 1970 = 100

	Imports					Exports							
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Manufactured goods	Total	Non-manufactures	Manufactured goods					
								Total	Chemicals	Textiles	Metals	Machinery and transport eqpt.	Other
Section or Division		0 and 1	2 and 4	3	5 to 8		0 to 4	5 to 8	5	65	67 to 69	7	
Weights	1,000	227	151	105	506	1,000	123	844	97	49	119	410	169
1971	104.9	107	102	122	101	105.6	107	105	102	102	99	110	102
1972	109.1	114	108	123	105	111.0	114	111	104	104	100	118	107
1973	138.1	150	141	164	127	125.5	139	124	114	123	115	128	125
1972 1st quarter	106.3	111	101	120	103	110.3	110	110	105	102	98	118	106
2nd quarter	107.4	112	104	120	104	110.8	112	111	104	104	100	119	104
3rd quarter •	110.8					114.1							
4th quarter	115.8	122	115	127	111	115.1	118	115	107	107	103	122	113
1973 1st quarter	122.2	132	124	136	115	119.1	127	118	109	112	108	124	118
2nd quarter	131.8	146	135	144	122	123.5	132	122	112	120	113	128	123
3rd quarter	144.7	159	147	162	134	128.4	141	127	115	126	120	131	130
4th quarter	159.5	172	162	215	143	135.3	158	133	125	136	129	135	133
1974 1st quarter	190.2	183	184	393	155	146.4	184	142	143	142	143	143	138
2nd quarter	211.3	191	207	485	167	159.1	210	153	168	158	164	149	143
3rd quarter	216.2	193	218	482	173	167.4	214	162	179	166	177	158	150
1973 July	139.0	152	140	152	130	126.5	138	125	112	124	116	130	128
August	144.5	160	146	163	134	128.2	140	127	115	126	120	130	130
September	150.4	166	154	171	139	130.6	144	129	117	127	123	132	133
October	153.8	169	159	183	140	131.6	145	130	121	131	126	133	130
November	158.5	171	161	210	142	135.1	153	133	125	138	130	135	132
December	166.2	175	165	252	146	139.2	174	135	128	140	132	136	136
1974 January	176.9	178	172	316	150	141.6	173	138	131	139	137	140	136
February	191.8	181	184	409	156	146.1	185	141	143	141	142	142	138
March	201.8	188	195	455	159	151.6	194	146	154	146	150	146	139
April	208.6	188	202	485	164	156.1	206	150	159	152	162	147	143
May	210.7	191	208	480	166	158.5	210	152	169	158	162	149	141
June	214.6	194	211	491	170	162.6	214	156	177	164	167	152	146
July	215.0	193	215	486	171	164.0	211	158	175	165	173	155	145
August	217.3	194	220	478	175	168.0	215	162	180	167	179	157	151
September	216.4	193	221	481	173	170.1	215	165	181	167	178	162	154
October	219.4	196	219	491	176	171.6	214	167	188	172	176	164	154
November p	221.5	199	220	488	179	174.9	216	170	190	176	180	168	157
Average three months ending													
August 1974	215.6	193	215	485	172	164.9	213	159	177	165	173	155	147
November 1974	219.1	196	220	487	176	172.2	215	167	186	171	178	164	155

• Details not shown due to distortion by dock strike.
p Provisional estimates.

TABLE 3 Import and export volume index numbers (unadjusted) (Overseas Trade Statistics basis) 1970 = 100

	Imports					Exports							
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Manufactured goods	Total	Non-manufactures	Manufactured goods					
								Total	Chemicals	Textiles	Metals	Machinery and transport eqpt.	Other
Section or Division		0 and 1	2 and 4	3	5 to 8		0 to 4	5 to 8	5	65	67 to 69	7	
Weights	1,000	227	151	105	506	1,000	123	844	97	49	119	410	169
1971	104.8	100	91	109	110	109.0	104	110	110	106	107	108	119
1972	116.0	102	93	109	131	111.4	109	112	118	111	108	106	128
1973	132.6	103	104	112	159	126.4	124	128	143	127	123	117	148
1972 1st quarter	115.5	105	90	122	126	107.6	103	109	113	106	103	104	122
2nd quarter	116.8	105	94	111	130	117.4	112	119	130	116	115	112	134
3rd quarter •	106.2					92.4							
4th quarter	126.8	108	104	108	147	126.6	134	126	131	129	126	120	138
1973 1st quarter	134.4	112	105	113	158	121.8	115	124	135	124	121	115	141
2nd quarter	130.8	103	103	115	156	127.7	118	131	147	135	125	121	146
3rd quarter	129.1	95	106	110	155	122.0	123	123	141	120	110	112	147
4th quarter	138.2	103	106	114	168	133.5	139	133	148	130	127	123	155
1974 1st quarter	135.1	97	94	114	169	128.6	128	130	168	138	126	117	140
2nd quarter	139.5	101	98	113	174	137.5	128	140	177	141	116	127	168
3rd quarter	131.1	96	95	111	164	132.3	127	134	171	113	105	126	157
1973 July	133.2	97	104	104	165	129.5	122	132	145	134	122	124	150
August	130.9	95	111	134	152	123.6	126	124	148	119	110	112	149
September	123.0	92	104	93	149	112.9	121	113	130	109	98	101	143
October	152.6	110	124	135	183	139.3	149	140	168	140	137	127	162
November	139.8	108	104	112	169	141.5	151	141	154	134	131	128	172
December	122.4	92	90	94	152	119.7	118	119	133	116	113	113	130
1974 January	133.7	98	99	119	162	119.3	119	120	155	133	117	113	114
February	129.5	88	88	104	166	130.2	140	130	174	137	130	115	140
March	142.2	105	95	118	178	136.3	123	139	174	145	131	122	164
April	138.2	99	93	107	176	134.0	121	137	175	147	113	125	156
May	144.1	107	100	120	178	147.9	143	150	187	152	122	135	183
June	136.2	98	100	111	169	130.5	119	133	168	125	111	120	164
July	146.4	111	100	108	185	147.7	142	148	190	126	115	139	176
August	121.7	88	95	96	150	123.4	119	124	169	108	99	116	141
September	125.3	91	91	99	156	125.8	116	129	155	107	102	123	153
October	142.1	103	96	121	178	146.4	138	148	184	123	125	141	169
November p	131.6	99	90	106	164	131.1	110	134	158	105	120	130	147

• Details not shown due to distortion by dock strike.
p Provisional estimates.

TABLE 4 Import and export volume index numbers (seasonally adjusted) (Overseas Trade Statistics basis) 1970=100

	Imports					Exports							
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Manufactured goods	Total	Non-manufactures	Manufactured goods: Total	Chemicals	Textiles	Metals	Machinery and transport eqpt.	Other
Section or Division		0 and 1	2 and 4	3	5 to 8		0 to 4	5 to 8	5	65	67 to 69	7	
Weights	1,000	227	151	105	506	1,000	123	844	97	49	119	410	169
1972 1st quarter	112.6	100	92	115	123	109.2	108	110	115	108	106	105	123
2nd quarter	113.2	102	94	106	125	113.2	111	115	120	112	110	107	133
3rd quarter *	111.3					99.3							
4th quarter	127.4	107	103	109	150	123.8	123	125	134	124	120	119	137
1973 1st quarter	128.4	105	105	105	150	123.1	120	125	137	126	126	114	143
2nd quarter	128.0	101	103	111	151	125.3	120	128	139	132	124	116	151
3rd quarter	136.8	102	104	119	166	129.9	131	130	147	130	121	122	148
4th quarter	137.9	102	103	114	170	128.3	124	129	149	122	120	118	151
1974 1st quarter	134.8	97	99	110	168	131.9	136	132	172	140	129	118	142
2nd quarter	137.2	99	98	109	169	134.9	130	137	170	138	114	124	167
3rd quarter	135.7	102	92	108	170	138.5	133	140	176	123	113	133	159
1973 July	135.3	100	102	115	164	126.6	124	128	141	134	122	119	147
August	139.7	104	102	137	167	130.3	139	129	151	129	121	121	140
September	135.3	101	108	106	166	132.6	130	133	148	126	122	125	157
October	142.6	104	116	132	171	129.0	127	130	150	122	124	119	154
November	136.8	101	100	109	169	131.8	131	131	152	123	119	120	158
December	134.3	103	95	102	171	123.9	113	124	146	120	117	115	142
1974 January	130.9	95	95	111	162	124.3	124	123	163	136	125	115	116
February	137.1	96	96	108	174	137.5	155	137	183	143	136	121	150
March	136.3	99	106	111	168	133.8	128	134	169	141	125	117	160
April	135.3	99	96	104	169	135.9	124	141	172	150	115	128	171
May	137.0	100	96	112	166	134.5	139	134	168	137	113	121	161
June	139.4	99	103	112	173	134.4	126	137	169	128	115	123	169
July	140.0	109	94	112	173	137.1	140	137	177	122	109	126	164
August	133.9	99	91	103	169	137.9	135	138	178	125	112	131	152
September	133.2	97	91	109	168	140.4	123	145	172	120	117	143	160
October	131.7	96	89	114	165	133.9	118	137	172	108	109	131	160
November p	129.1	95	89	105	163	128.0	102	132	166	103	113	129	141
Average three months ending													
August 1974	137.8	102	96	109	172	136.5	134	137	175	125	112	127	162
November 1974	131.3	96	90	110	165	134.1	115	138	170	111	113	135	154

* Details not shown due to distortion by dock strike.
p Provisional estimates.

Office development permits in the third quarter of 1974

The Department of the Environment reports that the total floor area of office development permits issued in the third quarter of 1974 was 5.6 million sq ft compared with 4.9 million sq ft in the third quarter of 1973 and a quarterly average of 6.5 million sq ft for 1973 as a whole. One hundred permits were issued in the third quarter of 1974, seven less than in the corresponding quarter of 1973 but 79 more than in the second quarter of 1974. As explained in the notes below, since December 1970 the control has operated in the South East Region only.

This substantial increase in the number of permits issued following the low figures in the first half of the year was the result of the announcement by the Secretary of State for the Environment on 30 July that decisions would be taken on the applications which had been held up by the standstill which had been applied since December 1973.

After deduction of relinquishments of existing offices and of floorspace covered by permits for the continuing use of existing offices included in the total figures, there was a potential addition to office space by way of new building and conversion of non-office premises to office use of 4.5 million sq ft in the third quarter of 1974. This compares with 3.4 million sq ft for the corresponding quarter of 1973 and a quarterly average of 4.8 million sq ft for 1973 as a whole. The potential addition in the second quarter of 1974 was only 0.3 million sq ft.

Thirteen of the 100 permits issued in the third quarter of 1974 were for office developments in Central London and covered 1.8 million sq ft; 45 covering 3.1 million sq ft were for development in Greater London; and 55 covering 2.5 million sq ft for development in the part of the South East Planning Region lying outside Greater London.

Tables showing office development permits since 1965 appeared in the 15 March 1973 issue of *Trade and Industry*.

Government Publications in Scotland

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Office development permits – sub-divisions of South East Planning Region

	Central London Area			Rest of Greater London			Total Greater London		
		Thousand sq. ft.			Thousand sq. ft.			Thousand sq. ft.	
	Number	Gross	Relinquished	Number	Gross	Relinquished	Number	Gross	Relinquished
1971	198	12,246	4,212	122	6,633	1,185	320	18,879	5,397
1971 1st quarter	62	3,754	802	44	2,537	350	106	6,291	1,152
2nd quarter	54	3,523	1,334	35	2,273	457	89	5,796	1,791
3rd quarter	44	2,651	1,347	24	1,005	153	68	3,656	1,500
4th quarter	38	2,318	729	19	818	225	57	3,136	954
1972	139	10,302	3,788	125	7,299	1,496	264	17,601	5,284
1972 1st quarter	44	3,364	1,587	20	1,987	340	64	5,351	1,927
2nd quarter	40	3,229	1,112	49	2,353	605	89	5,582	1,717
3rd quarter	31	1,939	194	36	1,891	374	67	3,830	568
4th quarter	24	1,770	895	20	1,068	177	44	2,838	1,072
1973	126	7,677	2,567	137	8,001	844	263	15,678	3,411
1973 1st quarter	36	2,077	401	39	1,560	242	75	3,637	643
2nd quarter	32	1,565	72	45	2,651	62	77	4,216	134
3rd quarter	29	1,610	671	26	1,119	148	55	2,729	819
4th quarter	29	2,425	1,423	27	2,671	392	56	5,096	1,815
1974 1st quarter	13	1,425	313	18	681	94	31	2,106	407
2nd quarter	10	570	81	6	15	19	16	585	100
3rd quarter	13	1,769	212	32	1,346	84	45	3,115	296

Office development permits – sub-divisions of South East Planning Region *(continued)*

	Metropolitan Area (excluding Greater London)			Total Metropolitan Area			South East (excluding Metropolitan Area)			Total South East		
		Thousand sq. ft.			Thousand sq. ft.			Thousand sq. ft.			Thousand sq. ft.	
	Number	Gross	Relinquished	Number	Gross	Relinquished	Number	Gross	Relinquished	Number	Gross	Relinquished
1971	127	6,884	360	447	25,763	5,757	76	3,198	303	523	28,961	6,060
1971 1st quarter	26	860	70	132	7,151	1,222	19	744	121	151	7,895	1,343
2nd quarter	32	1,141	77	121	6,937	1,868	24	790	84	145	7,727	1,952
3rd quarter	40	2,158	65	108	5,814	1,565	12	437	18	120	6,251	1,583
4th quarter	29	2,725	148	86	5,861	1,102	21	1,227	80	107	7,088	1,182
1972	90	4,729	178	354	22,330	5,462	102	5,239	350	456	27,569	5,812
1972 1st quarter	22	1,949	50	86	7,300	1,977	31	1,612	99	117	8,912	2,076
2nd quarter	24	957	64	113	6,539	1,781	34	1,839	130	147	8,378	1,911
3rd quarter	25	1,225	42	92	5,055	610	23	1,179	61	115	6,234	671
4th quarter	19	598	22	63	3,436	1,094	14	609	60	77	4,045	1,154
1973	130	5,732	454	393	21,410	3,865	84	4,484	325	477	25,894	4,190
1973 1st quarter	51	2,260	109	126	5,897	752	23	1,086	99	149	6,983	851
2nd quarter	29	1,107	63	106	5,323	197	25	1,186	9	131	6,509	206
3rd quarter	34	1,272	148	89	4,001	967	18	852	37	107	4,853	1,004
4th quarter	16	1,093	134	72	6,189	1,949	18	1,360	180	90	7,549	2,129
1974 1st quarter	9	731	86	40	2,837	493	7	139	56	47	2,976	549
2nd quarter }	35	1,956	197	96	5,656	593	25	1,138	24	21	1,225	116
3rd quarter }										100	5,569	501

In some instances, in order to avoid the risk of disclosing details of indivudal applicants, figures for the second and third quarters of 1974 have been combined

Notes to tables

Commencement of controls. In the London Metropolitan Region the control began in August 1965, but with retrospective application to 5 November 1964 for some projects, as explained in the first annual report by the Board of Trade under the Act; this report was referred to in the *Board of Trade Journal* of 5 August 1966, page 324. The West Midlands Conurbation was brought within the control from 14 August 1965, while the parts of the South East and the West Midlands Planning Regions not already controlled and the whole of East Midlands and East Anglia Planning Regions came under control on 21 July 1966.

Removal of controls. From 25 February 1969, the East Anglia Planning Region and the predominantly rural areas of the West Midlands and East Midlands Planning Regions were excluded from control. The remaining areas of the West Midlands and East Midlands Planning Regions were excluded from control on 16 December 1970. From 18 July 1974 the area comprising Bournemouth, Christchurch and an adjacent parish which was transferred from the South East to the South West Region as a result of local government reorganisation was excluded from control.

Changes in exemption limit. From 27 July 1967, the exemption limit for permits was raised from 3,000 square feet to 10,000 square feet except in the Metropolitan Region. From 25 February 1969 this change was extended to the areas of the Metropolitan Region outside Greater London. The exemption limit in Greater London was raised to 10,000r square feet from 16 December 1970.

Modification of control. From 1 April 1969, office development permits were in most cases no longer needed for developments within the curtilage of an industrial building for which an industrial development certificate was issued. The figures for the year 1968 included 168 permits of this type, with gross area 2,485,000 square feet (18 per cent of the total area of permits issued) and an area net of relinguishments of 2,103,000 square feet (24 per cent of the net total).

Definitions of areas. Until 18 July 1974 the South East Planning Region corresponds to the standard region for statistical purposes as defined in the *Board of Trade Journal* of 31 December 1965, page 1567. Central London is the Greater London Conurbation Centre as defined in the General Register Office Census 1961 County Report: London. The Metropolitan Region, an area of some 40 miles radius from the Centre of London, is as defined in Schedule 13 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971, as amended by Article 13 of the Local Government, England and Wales (Miscellaneous Provisions) Order 1974; from 1 January 1972 for statistical reasons the Outer Metropolitan Sub-division (Rest of Metropolitan Region) and the Outer South-East Sub-division (Rest of South East Planning Region) are as defined in the Regional Abstract of Statistics No. 7; the areas defined under the Act are unchanged. From 18 July 1974 the South East Planning Region corresponds to the new standard region adjusted to take account of local government reorganisation, as defined in DOE Circular 69/74.

Area relinquished. Comprises office floor space relinquished for demolition or change of use to non-office uses.

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Engineering industries sales and orders (SIC Orders VII, VIII and IX)

The provisional trend estimates and seasonally adjusted volume index numbers of engineering sales and orders up to September 1974 are published in the accompanying table. The volume of total sales has continued to rise in the third quarter of this year, in both home and export markets. Total net new orders have declined further, causing orders-on-hand to fall back slightly.

The volume of total sales rose by 4 per cent between the second and third quarters of this year to exceed the level reached one year ago: this was entirely due to a 13½ per cent rise in seasonally adjusted export sales during the 12-month period. Home sales have increased from their depressed level during the second quarter of this year, but in the third quarter were 4 per cent below the corresponding quarter of last year.

The trend of net new export orders has declined in recent months, while the inflow of net new orders for the home market has continued to recover from the low level early this year. With a sharp decrease of 17 per cent, between June and September the trend of net new export orders has sunk to a level below that of sales. As a result, the trend of export orders-on-hand has shown a slight fall during the same period. The trend of home net new orders is partially obscured by the variability of the seasonally adjusted figures, but the trend has clearly been rising up to the third quarter of this year. On a seasonally adjusted basis, the inflow of net new home orders was very low in July, but a high index for September, which may be liable to revision next month, has contributed to the rising trend in recent months. Between June and September, the trends of home orders-on-hand and of total order books have decreased a little; each by about 1 per cent.

The revised figures published in this table are based on the Monthly Engineering Inquiry relating to September 1974. The response rate of 82 per cent to the inquiry for September is judged sufficient to justify publication of provisional indices for this month. Taking into account late returns now received for June, July and

Index numbers for the combined engineering industries (SIC Orders VII, VIII and IX) (a)

Volume index numbers:	Orders-on-hand. December 1970 unadjusted = 100			Net new orders and sales, 1970 average monthly sales = 100					
	Total			Home			Export		
	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	Net new orders	Sales	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	Net new orders	Sales	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	New net orders	Sales
Trend estimates									
1973 April	109	131	112	114	136	117	99	120	101
May	112	133	113	117	137	117	101	124	102
June	115	136	113	120	139	118	105	128	102
July	118	138	114	123	140	118	108	134	103
August	121	140	114	125	141	119	112	139	103
September	124	141	114	128	140	118	117	142	103
October	128	139	113	131	137	117	122	144	103
November	131	135	112	133	132	116	126	144	103
December	133	130	111	134	125	114	131	143	103
1974 January	135	125	110	135	118	112	135	142	104
February	137	120	109	135	112	111	140	141	105
March	138	117	109	135	108	110	143	139	107
April	138	114	110	134	106	110	146	135	110
May	138	113	112	133	106	111	148	129	112
June	138	112	113	133	108	112	148	122	115
July	138	111	114	132	110	113	148	114	116
August	137	110	115	132	112	113	148	107	118
September	137	110	115	131	114	114	147	101	119
Percentage change (b) June-Sept. 1974	−1.0	−1.5	2.0	−1.0	6.0	1.5	−0.5	−17.5	4.0
Seasonally adjusted									
1969	101	100	97	102	99	99	100	102	91
1970	100	99	100	100	99	100	100	100	100
1971	93	97	101	95	98	101	89	93	102
1972	99	103	101	103	108	105	90	91	92
1973	133	134	113	134	136	117	130	130	102
1973 3rd quarter	125	142	114	128	143	118	117	139	104
4th quarter	133	135	113	134	132	117	130	143	103
1974 1st quarter	137	117	109	133	108	111	143	139	104
2nd quarter	140	118	111	134	112	110	150	132	113
3rd quarter	137	108	115	132	110	114	145	104	118
1973 July	118	144	115	123	150	120	108	132	105
August	121	135	114	125	133	117	112	139	104
September	125	146	112	128	146	117	117	145	102
October	127	131	114	130	130	119	121	135	102
November	131	147	116	133	142	121	127	157	104
December	133	128	109	134	125	112	130	136	104
1974 January	136	125	104	136	118	107	136	143	98
February	137	115	110	135	107	111	139	133	108
March	137	111	112	133	100	115	143	140	106
April	138	120	110	134	109	108	147	145	114
May	139	115	108	134	110	108	149	126	109
June	140	120	114	134	117	113	150	126	116
July	137	98	116	131	94	117	149	108	115
August	136	107	115	130	107	112	147	107	123
September	137	119	114	132	128	113	145	98	116
Apr.-June 1974 (av.)	140	118	111	134	112	110	150	132	113
July-Sept. 1974 (av.)	137	108	115	132	110	114	145	104	118
Percentage change (b)	−2.0	−8.5	4.0	−1.5	−2.5	4.0	−3.0	−21.5	4.5

(a) All figures are provisional.
(b) For orders on hand, the percentage changes compare the level at the end of the latest period shown with the corresponding level for the earlier period. The percentage changes have been based on the unrounded values and are given to the nearest half percentage point.

August response rates for these months were 93, 90 and 87 per cent respectively.

Business Monitor PM 33-36, Engineering (volume indices of sales and orders) is obtainable from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH, post free for a subscription of £1.40 per annum. Volume indices are given for sales, orders-on-hand and net new orders for total, home and export markets, for each of the three SIC Orders VII, VIII and IX (mechanical, instrument and electrical engineering respectively).

Steel consumption and stocks in the third quarter

Consumption of steel

Consumption of steel in the third quarter of 1974 is now estimated to have been 4.3 million tonnes after seasonal adjustment, some 0.05 million tonnes more than had been previously estimated in respect of the same quarter. Consumption of steel in the third quarter of 1974 was some 6 per cent lower than in the previous quarter. Further details are given in Table 1.

Stocks

Stocks of finished steel in the third quarter of 1974 are now estimated, after adjustment for seasonal variations, to have decreased by some 30,000 tonnes. Within this total consumers declined by some 76,000 tonnes and merchants rose by some 40,000 tonnes. Stocks of steel held by consumers and merchants now stand at 17 weeks' use. Details are given in Table 2.

Note

The industrial breakdown of consumption and stocks for the first quarter of 1974 is not strictly comparable with that for earlier years, as the basis on which stockholding merchants' deliveries are allocated to industry has changed.

TABLE 3 Estimated finished steel stocks held by consumers and merchants

Seasonally adjusted (Thousand tonnes)

		Sheet	Plate	Tinplate	Rods and bar for reinforcement	All other steel products	Total all products
1973	3rd quarter						
	Consumers	553	847	165	199	2,355	4,120
	Merchants	188	116	22	4	314	644
	Total	741	963	187	203	2,669	4,764
	4th quarter						
	Consumers	596	914	157	223	2,550	4,440
	Merchants	158	110	20	4	290	582
	Total	754	1,024	177	227	2,840	5,022
1974	1st quarter						
	Consumers	717	1,034	184	249	2,802	4,987
	Merchants	183	120	20	4	290	618
	Total	900	1,154	204	253	3,092	5,605
	2nd quarter						
	Consumers	654	1,078	165	252	2,890	5,039
	Merchants	257	146	15	4	332	754
	Total	911	1,224	180	256	3,222	5,793
	3rd quarter p						
	Consumers	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4,971
	Merchants	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	790
	Total	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5,761

p = Provisional. N/A = Not available.

TABLE 1 Consumption of finished steel by using industry

(Thousand tonnes)

Industry	1973 3rd qtr.	1973 4th qtr.	1974 1st qtr.	1974 2nd qtr.	1974 3rd qtr p	1973 3rd qtr.	1973 4th qtr.	1974 1st qtr.	1974 2nd qtr.	1974 3rd qtr. p
						Seasonally adjusted				
Coalmining	108	122	99	126	N/A	127	125	88	121	N/A
Railways and rolling stock	85	98	116	124	N/A	88	102	109	122	N/A
Shipbuilding	138	162	151	140	N/A	149	156	152	134	N/A
Constructional engineering and building	802	919	909	851	N/A	860	923	888	809	N/A
Electrical engineering	211	219	275	287	N/A	229	220	254	285	N/A
Mechanical engineering	904	968	887	939	N/A	953	962	855	930	N/A
Motor vehicles	551	618	536	595	N/A	630	614	502	564	N/A
Hollow-ware	318	346	354	370	N/A	330	360	333	365	N/A
Wire and wire manufactures	259	309	293	273	N/A	286	303	278	269	N/A
Other consuming industries	877	1,024	959	1,018	N/A	947	1,046	899	991	N/A
Total home consumption	4,253	4,785	4,579	4,723	3,977	4,599	4,811	4,358	4,590	4,299

p = provisional.
N/A = Not available.

TABLE 2 Estimated changes in consumers' and merchants' stocks of finished steel by consuming industry groups

(Thousand tonnes)

Industry	1973 3rd qtr.	1973 4th qtr.	1974 1st qtr.	1974 2nd qtr.	1974 3rd qtr. p	Stock at end Sept. 1974 p	1973 3rd qtr.	1973 4th qtr.	1974 1st qtr.	1974 2nd qtr.	1974 3rd qtr.	Stock at end Sept. 1974 p
							Seasonally adjusted					
Coalmining	+15	+29	+34	+17	N/A		+8	+25	+38	+19	N/A	
Railways and rolling stock	−3	—	+25	+10	N/A		−5	—	+28	+9	N/A	
Shipbuilding	+35	+35	+42	+51	N/A		+41	+33	+37	+51	N/A	
Constructional engineering and building	+92	+55	+122	+6	N/A		+100	+53	+73	+46	N/A	
Electrical engineering	+17	+14	+59	−6	N/A		+18	+17	+56	−9	N/A	
Mechanical engineering	+1	+58	+131	+35	N/A		+14	+70	+111	+26	N/A	
Motor vehicles	+15	+33	+68	−70	N/A		+28	+37	+47	−62	N/A	
Hollow-ware	+11	−8	+49	−24	N/A		+26	+1	+31	−32	N/A	
Wire and wire manufactures	—	+9	+30	+4	N/A		+3	+7	+21	+10	N/A	
Other consuming industries	+65	+59	+138	−13	N/A		+72	+77	+105	−6	N/A	
Total change in consumer's stocks	+248	+284	+698	+10	−125	5,023	+305	+320	+547	+52	−68	4,971
Changes in merchants' stocks	−36	−54	+41	+118	+42	783	−42	−62	+36	+136	+36	790
Total changes by consumers' and merchants'	+212	+230	+739	+128	−83	5,806	+263	+258	+583	+188	−32	5,761

p = Provisional.
N/A = Not available.

Motor vehicle output in November

Output of both cars and commercial vehicles showed further recovery in November towards higher levels of activity, following the very low output due to industrial disputes in September.

Recorded car output in the four weeks to 23 November was 140,374 units, an average of 35,094 per week. Output in November is normally at a high level for seasonal reasons and the weekly average reached the second highest rate this year; it was, however, 9 per cent below the weekly rate in November 1973. Commercial vehicle output was 38,550 units (9,638 per week), the highest rate achieved this year, and nearly a quarter higher than the low figure recorded in November 1973.

(The comments which follow are, unless otherwise stated, based on the seasonally adjusted figures in Table 2.)

Cars

Seasonally adjusted, car output rose for the second successive month to a level which, although well above the average of the first four months of the year, was nevertheless somewhat below the rate achieved in the middle of the year (May to August). The monthly fluctuations in car output have been more marked this year than in the previous two years, which makes the analysis of underlying trends somewhat uncertain. However, it seems that, after the interruption arising from the industrial disputes in September and October, the industry is now returning to a more normal level of working, with output a little below the average achieved last year.

In the first 11 months of 1974, car output was 12 per cent below that in the corresponding period of 1973, with production for the home market 18 per cent lower, and production for export virtually unchanged.

Commercial vehicles

Output of commercial vehicles, which was relatively little affected by the industrial disputes in September, rose slightly in October and again in November, to reach a level 4 per cent above the average monthly output of 1973.

In the first 11 months of 1974, commercial vehicle output as a whole fell by 4 per cent compared with last year. Changes within the total followed the same general pattern as for motor cars, with the depressed home market responsible for the overall fall in output. Production for the UK market fell by 11 per cent in the first 11 months compared with a year earlier, while production for overseas market rose by 9 per cent.

TABLE 1 Recorded production

Production figures of road motor vehicles cover complete vehicles, chassis with engines for delivery as such and un-assembled vehicles for export. Road tractors are included but battery operated road vehicles are excluded.

Production for export may differ from actual exports as recorded in the Overseas Trade Statistics because of differences in timing and coverage.

		Passenger cars (including taxis)				Commercial road vehicles			
	No. of weeks	For home market	For export	Totals	Weekly average	For home market	For export	Totals	Weekly average
1967	52	988,273	563,740	1,552,013	29,846	245,692	139,414	385,106	7,406
1968	52	1,013,163	802,773	1,815,936	34,922	259,331	149,855	409,186	7,869
1969	53	892,758	824,315	1,717,073	32,398	272,998	192,778	465,776	8,788
1970	52	918,109	722,857	1,640,966	31,557	267,407	190,125	457,532	8,799
1971	52	1,027,462	714,478	1,741,940	33,499	268,278	187,928	456,206	8,773
1972	52	1,307,881	613,430	1,921,311	36,948	272,649	135,470	408,119	7,848
1973	52	1,142,216	605,105	1,747,321	33,602	257,574	159,049	416,623	8,012
1974	52								
1973 1st quarter	13	320,052	158,532	478,584	36,814	69,954	36,346	106,300	8,177
2nd quarter	13	290,253	155,749	446,002	34,308	69,399	39,980	109,379	8,414
3rd quarter	13	229,505	122,313	351,818	27,063	54,106	36,031	90,137	6,934
4th quarter	13	302,406	168,511	470,917	36,224	64,115	46,692	110,807	8,523
1974 1st quarter	13	237,232	150,688	387,920	29,840	52,641	36,845	89,486	6,884
2nd quarter	13	275,355	164,041	439,396	33,800	63,122	46,063	109,185	8,399
3rd quarter	13	185,485	121,133	306,618	23,586	50,233	39,800	90,033	6,926
4th quarter	13								
1973 January	5	135,970	61,705	197,675	39,535	28,419	12,597	41,016	8,203
February	4	89,426	48,206	137,632	34,408	21,401	12,054	33,455	8,364
March	4	94,656	48,621	143,277	35,819	20,134	11,695	31,829	7,957
April	4	80,647	45,380	126,027	31,507	18,957	11,278	30,235	7,559
May	5	111,333	62,019	173,352	34,670	26,613	13,684	40,297	8,059
June	4	98,273	48,350	146,623	36,656	23,829	15,018	38,847	9,712
July	4	66,106	33,344	99,450	24,863	16,054	12,041	28,095	7,024
August	4	76,537	41,956	118,493	29,623	14,437	8,754	23,191	5,798
September	5	86,862	47,013	133,875	26,775	23,615	15,236	38,851	7,770
October	4	100,661	56,057	156,718	39,180	23,475	16,046	39,521	9,880
November	4	98,926	55,819	154,745	38,686	18,659	12,490	31,149	7,787
December	5	102,819	56,635	159,454	31,891	21,981	18,152	40,133	8,027
1974 January	4	61,781	37,628	99,409	24,852	13,989	9,595	23,584	5,896
February	4	73,721	50,721	124,442	31,110	16,048	11,428	27,476	6,869
March	5	101,730	62,339	164,069	32,814	22,604	15,822	38,426	7,685
April	4	74,411	40,917	115,328	28,832	18,881	12,913	31,794	7,948
May	4	99,873	58,240	158,113	39,528	20,614	15,513	36,127	9,032
June	5	101,071	64,884	165,955	33,191	23,627	17,637	41,264	8,253
July	4	56,304	37,405	93,709	23,427	14,978	12,841	27,819	6,955
August	4	66,368	46,662	113,030	28,258	14,701	10,495	25,196	6,299
September	5	62,813	37,066	99,879	19,976	20,554	16,464	37,018	7,404
October	4	73,584	49,228	122,812	30,703	20,846	14,332	35,178	8,794
November	4	84,752	55,622	140,374	35,094	22,464	16,086	38,550	9,638
December	5								

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TABLE 2 Production – seasonally adjusted

The seasonally adjusted series has been adjusted to exclude the effect of regularly recurring influence (eg holidays) but the figures still reflect the effect of factors that do not recur regularly (eg strikes).

Care should be taken not to interpret changes between one month and another as necessarily indicating the underlying trend. The averages in the latest three months and in the previous three months give a more reliable guide to recent changes.

MONTHLY AVERAGE — Thousands

	Passenger cars			Commercial vehicles		
	For home market	For export	Total	For home market	For export	Total
1967	82	47	129	20.5	11.6	32.1
1968	84	67	151	21.6	12.5	34.1
1969	74	69	143	22.7	16.1	38.8
1970	77	60	137	22.3	15.8	38.1
1971	86	59	145	22.3	14.7	38.0
1972	109	51	160	22.7	11.3	34.0
1973	95	50	145	21.5	13.2	34.7
1974						
1973 1st quarter	99	47	146	22.2	11.8	34.0
2nd quarter	91	48	139	21.7	12.1	33.8
3rd quarter	97	51	148	23.0	14.5	37.5
4th quarter	93	56	149	19.0	14.6	33.6
1974 1st quarter	74	44	118	16.9	12.0	28.9
2nd quarter	87	51	138	20.0	13.9	33.9
3rd quarter	81	52	133	21.8	16.2	38.0
4th quarter						
1973 January	111	50	161	22.9	11.7	34.6
February	92	44	136	22.5	12.2	34.7
March	95	46	141	21.2	11.7	32.9
April	85	44	129	20.8	11.4	32.2
May	90	50	140	20.7	10.4	31.1
June	97	52	149	23.7	14.4	38.1
July	108	54	162	24.6	16.6	41.2
August	103	54	157	21.5	13.4	34.9
September	81	44	125	23.0	13.4	36.4
October	100	58	158	22.0	16.8	38.8
November	94	58	152	16.8	12.2	29.0
December	86	52	138	18.1	14.7	32.8
1974 January	64	38	102	14.3	11.5	25.8
February	77	47	124	17.1	11.7	28.8
March	82	48	130	19.2	12.7	31.9
April	79	40	119	21.0	13.2	34.2
May	99	57	156	19.6	14.4	34.0
June	82	58	140	19.4	14.1	33.5
July	92	61	153	23.1	17.6	40.7
August	90	60	150	22.0	16.3	38.3
September	59	35	94	20.3	14.6	34.9
October	73	52	125	19.6	15.4	35.0
November	81	58	139	20.2	16.0	36.2
December						
Average of:						
June-Aug. 1974	88	60	148	21.5	16.0	37.5
Sept.-Nov. 1974	71	48	119	20.0	15.3	35.4
Percentage change	−19	−19	−19	−7	−4	−6

Domestic furniture deliveries in October

Monthly figures of domestic furniture deliveries for the period September 1973 to October 1974 are given below:

	Deliveries £m. current values	Index of deliveries unadjusted	Index of deliveries seasonally adjusted
1973 September	38.8 r	188	165 r
October	42.3 r	176 r	152
November	41.9 r	179 r	154 r
December	29.0 r	129 r	137 r
1974 January	31.9 r	125 r	130
February	30.7 r	135 r	130 r
March	35.6 r	147 r	143 r
April	34.7 r	135 r	143 r
May	35.2 r	131 r	136 r
June	34.0 r	144 r	142 r
July	31.4 r	113 r	141 r
August	30.8 p	115 r	138 r
September	40.6 p	156 r	136 r
October	44.6 p	155	134

Indices (1970 = 100)
r = revised
p = Provisional

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PM 476 Imported timber for October 1974
PM 481 Paper and paper making materials for October 1974

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PQ 322 Copper, brass and other copper alloys for third quarter 1974
PQ 399.5 Drop forgings for third quarter 1974
PQ 449.2 Gloves for third quarter 1974
PQ 464 Cement for third quarter 1974
PQ 482.1 Cardboard boxes, cartons and fibreboard packing cases for third quarter 1974
PQ 491 Rubber manufacturers for second quarter 1974
PQ 603 Water supply for third quarter 1974

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SD 8 Instalment credit business of retailers for October 1974

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Release dates of economic statistics to be published in January 1975

This notice is issued by the Central Statistical Office on behalf of the Government Statistical Service and other organisations as a guide to the dates of publication of major economic series in January. The dates are those which Departments, or other organisations concerned, are aiming at, and would normally expect to meet. Exceptionally, there may be a delay resulting from unavoidable statistical problems of collection and compilation. Further enquiries about individual series should be addressed to the source named.

Publication date	Series	Method of release*	Source
January			
2 Thurs.	Unemployment (Nov. – final) Employment in production industries (Oct.) Overtime and short-time working in manufacturing industries (Oct.) Stoppages of work due to industrial disputes (Nov.)	Gazette	Department of Employment
	Energy trends	PN	Department of Energy
	Capital issues and redemptions (Dec.)	PN	Bank of England
3 Fri.	United Kingdom official reserves (Dec.)	PN	HM Treasury
7 Tues.	Consolidated fund and national loans fund (Dec.)	London Gazette	HM Treasury
	Housing starts and completions (Nov. – prov.) House renovation grants (Nov. – prov.)	PN	Department of Environment
8 Wed.	Hire purchase and other instalment credit business (Nov.)	PN	Department of Industry
	Retail trade (Nov.)	PN	Department of Industry
	London clearing banks' monthly statement (mid-Dec.)	PN	CLCB
	UK banks' eligible liabilities reserve assets and reserve ratios (mid-Dec.)	PN	Bank of England
	Central Government borrowing requirement (Nov.)	Financial Statistics	CSO/ Treasury
9 Thurs.	Capital expenditure by the manufacturing, distributive and service industries (3rd qtr. – revised) Manufacturers' and distributors stocks (3rd qtr. – revised)	Trade and Industry	Department of Industry
	Personal income, expenditure and savings (3rd qtr.), gross domestic product (3rd qtr. – revised	PN	CSO
	Provisional figures of vehicle production and estimates of new car registrations (Dec. – prov.)	PN	Department of Industry
10 Fri.	Crude steel production (Dec.)	PN	BSC/ BISPA
	National food survey report on consumption (3rd qtr.)	PN	MAFF
13 Mon.	Retail trade (Dec. – prov.)	PN	Department of Industry
	Turnover of the catering trades (Nov.)	PN	Department of Industry
	Wholesale price index numbers (Dec.)	PN	Department of Industry
15 Wed.	Balance of payments current account and overseas trade figures (Dec.)	PN	CSO/ Department of Trade
16 Thurs.	Consumers' expenditure (4th qtr. – 1st preliminary estimate)	PN	CSO
	Index of industrial production (Nov.)	PN	CSO
17 Fri.	Retail prices index (Dec.)	PN	Department of Employment
	Building societies' receipts and loans (Dec.)	PN	BSA
20 Mon.	UK banks' assets and liabilities and the money stock (mid-Dec.)	PN	Bank of England
	Basic rates of wages and normal weekly hours (end-Dec.) Monthly index of average earnings (Nov.)	PN	Department of Employment
21 Tues.	Appropriation account of companies (3rd qtr.) Net acquisition of financial assets – analysis by sector (3rd qtr.) Financial accounts of industrial and commercial company and personal sectors (3rd qtr.)	PN	CSO
	Investment intentions of the manufacturing, distributive and service industries for 1975 and 1976	PN	Department of Industry
22 Wed.	Import and export unit value and volume index numbers, terms of trade (Dec.)	PN	Department of Trade
	New vehicle registrations (Dec.)	PN	Department of Environment
23 Thurs.	Sales and orders in the engineering industries (Oct.)	Trade and Industry	Department of Industry
	Unemployment (Jan. – prov.) Unfilled vacancies (Jan. – prov.)	PN	Department of Employment
	Car and commercial vehicle production (Dec. – final)	PN	Department of Industry
	Energy trends	PN	Department of Energy
26 Sun.	National savings monthly progress report (Dec.)	PN	National Savings Committee
29 Wed.	Construction – new orders (Nov.)	PN	Department of Environment
30 Thurs.	Bricks and cement production (Dec.)	PN	Department of Environment
	Energy trends	PN	Department of Energy
	Unemployment (Dec. – final) Employment in production industries (Nov.) Overtime and short-time working in manufacturing industries (Nov.) Stoppages of work due to industrial disputes (Dec.)	Gazette	Department of Employment

* PN = Press Notices.

Registrations of British, Community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 20 December 1974.
BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered No.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
			BRITISH		
The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz	BR/E 37866/22/12/79	121	18 December	Fox-Rank Distributors Ltd.	International Cinemedia Center Ltd., Montrea
Sex Play	BR/E 37867/22/12/79	91	19 December	Atlantic Film Distributors Ltd.	Elite Syncopations Ltd.
Movietone News 2376	BR/E 37598/22/12/79	7	20 December	British Movietonews Ltd.	British Movietonews Ltd.
Movietone News 2376A	BR/E 37599/22/12/79	7	20 December	British Movietonews Ltd.	British Movietonews Ltd.
			COMMUNITY		
I Like the Girls Who Do	EC 37858/22/12/79	70	17 December	New Realm Distributors Ltd.	Regina-Film, Munich
Maid for Pleasure	EC 37859/22/12/79	91	17 December	Cinecenta Film Distributors Ltd.	Europrodis, Marseille
Erotic Diary	EC 37860/22/12/79	82	17 December	Cinecenta Film Distributors Ltd.	Les Films J.M.P., Neuilly and Filmski, Paris
			FOREIGN		
The Pirates of Blood Island	F 37857	89	16 December	Miracle Films Ltd.	Carthago Films, Madrid and Duca International S.p.A., Rome
The Island At The Top Of The World	F 37861	94	18 December	Walt Disney Productions Ltd.	Walt Disney Productions, Burbank
Winnie The Pooh And Tigger Too	F 37862	25	18 December	Walt Disney Productions Ltd.	Walt Disney Productions, Burbank
Free Love	F 37863	92	18 December	Border Film Productions (London) Ltd.	Sara Films, Rome
The Slightly Pregnant Man	F 37864	87	18 December	Border Film Productions (London) Ltd.	Raymond Danon, Paris
My Ain Folk	F 37865	56	18 December	The British Film Institute	The British Film Institute Production Board

Amendments to the Register
The registration number of the film 'Fear Eats The Soul', registered on 28 November 1974 has been amended to EC 37805/1/12/79 and the maker's name to read Tango Film, Munich.
The playing time of the film 'Bawdy Tales', registered on 27 November 1974, (EC 37802/1/12/79) has been amended to 82 minutes.

Index to statistics and organisational information published regularly in 'Trade and Industry'

A = annually M = monthly Q = quarterly 6M = every six months.

Title	Last published
Air transport: trade by air (6M)	30 May 1974
Balance of payments:	
current account (M)	19 Dec. 1974
trends in invisible transactions (Q)	24 Oct. 1974
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Bankruptcy orders (Q)	12 Dec. 1974
Business names and limited partnerships (A)	7 Mar. 1974
Capital expenditure: manufacturing, distributive and service industries (Q)	5 Dec. 1974
Catering trades turnover (M)	12 Dec. 1974
Chemicals industry activity (Q)	14 Nov. 1974
Companies:	
acquisitions and mergers (Q)	28 Nov. 1974
new registrations:	
Liquidity	12 Dec. 1974
Gt. Britain (M)	28 Nov. 1974
N. Ireland (M)	This week
Construction work overseas (A)	17 Oct. 1974
Energy trends (M)	5 Dec. 1974
Engineering industries: sales and orders (M)	This week
Film industry:	
British Film Fund Agency returns (M)	21 Nov. 1974
cinema admissions and takings (M)	12 Dec. 1974
overseas payments and earnings (A)	1 Aug. 1974
registration of films (A)	31 Jan. 1974
Food:	
consumption levels (6M)	5 Sept. 1974
household consumption (Q)	14 Nov. 1974
Footwear industry: production, orders and deliveries (M)	28 Nov. 1974
Foreign exchange: official reserves (M)	12 Dec. 1974
Foreign trade: industrial countries' production and trade (Q)	14 Mar. 1974
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Furniture orders and deliveries (M)	This week
Hire-purchase business (M)	5 Dec. 1974
Industrial production:	
index numbers (M)	This week
N. Ireland index (M)	19 Dec. 1974
Wales index (Q)	11 Apr. 1974
Insurance companies: investments and assets (A)	5 Sept. 1974
Investment:	
book values of overseas direct investments (every 3 years)	15 Nov. 1973
industry's investment intentions (3 times a year)	10 Oct. 1974
investment and earnings overseas (A)	13 June 1974
Machine tools: sales and orders (M)	7 Nov. 1974
Man-made fibres:	
deliveries (Q)	28 Nov. 1974
production (M)	28 Nov. 1974
production: quarterly analysis (Q)	28 Nov. 1974
Motor industry:	
car and commercial vehicle production (M)	This week
estimated figures (M)	12 Dec. 1974
motor trade turnover (Q)	21 Nov. 1974
Office development permits (Q)	31 Oct. 1974
Overseas trade of the UK:	
direct exporters and credit terms (A)	27 June 1974
UK overseas trade in 1973	16 May 1974
unit value and volume index numbers (M)	This week
value: analysis of trends (Q)	26 Sept. 1974
(*see also* Balance of payments)	
Paper and board production (M)	This week
Pension funds: investments and assets (A)	5 Sept. 1974
Regional selective assistance (M)	19 Dec. 1974
Retail prices index (M)	This week
Retail trades:	
sales (M)	5 Dec. 1974
provisional figures (M)	12 Dec. 1974
sales, N. Ireland (M)	5 Dec. 1974
stocks (M)	19 Dec. 1974
Royalties: overseas transactions (A)	27 June 1974
Shipping: nationality of vessels in UK sea-borne trade (A)	6 Dec. 1973
Steel consumption and stocks (Q)	This week
Stocks:	
manufacturers' and distributors' (Q)	5 Dec. 1974
retail (M)	19 Dec. 1974
Television: overseas payments and earnings (A)	1 Aug. 1974
Textiles:	
activity in the industry (Q)	21 Nov. 1974
carpet sales (M)	19 Sept. 1974
cotton industry production (M)	12 Dec. 1974
hosiery production (M)	19 Sept. 1974
made-up clothing: orders and deliveries (M)	12 Dec. 1974
orders and deliveries (M)	21 Mar. 1974
wholesale houses' sales (M)	28 Nov. 1974
wool exports (Q)	12 Dec. 1974
wool output (M)	12 Dec. 1974
Tourism:	
foreign visitor arrivals (M)	7 Nov. 1974
overseas travel and tourism (A)	21 Feb. 1974
Wholesale prices:	
average prices of selected commodities (A)	4 Apr. 1974
index numbers (M)	19 Dec. 1974

Department organisations, etc.

Subjects	Last published
British commercial representations overseas	3 Oct. 1974
Business Monitor titles	6 Sept. 1973
Customs notices of interest to exporters	This week
ECGD local offices	7 Nov. 1974
Guide to Departments	5 Dec. 1974
Official Receivers' offices	This week
Programme of trade promotions	17 Oct. 1974
Release dates of economic statistics	This week

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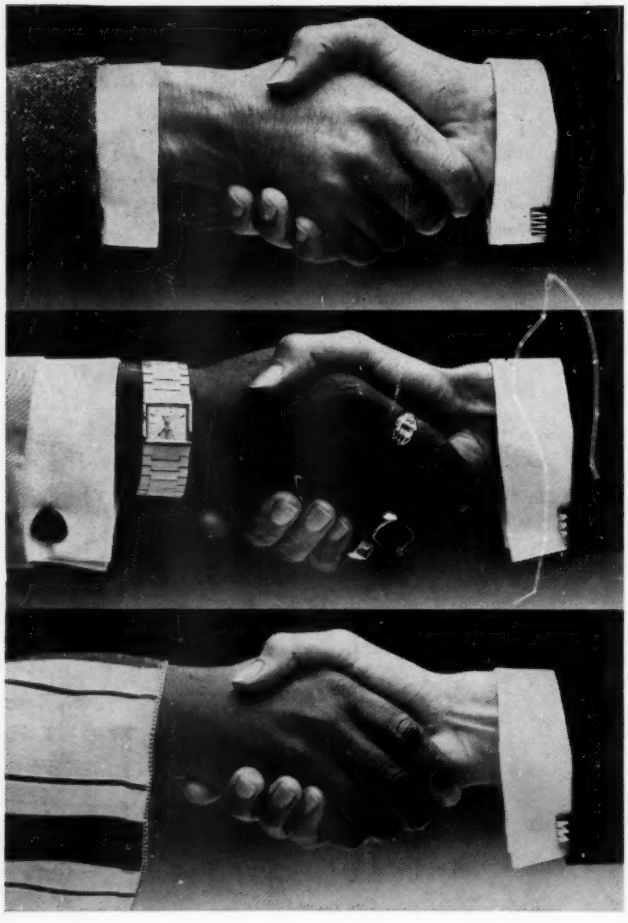

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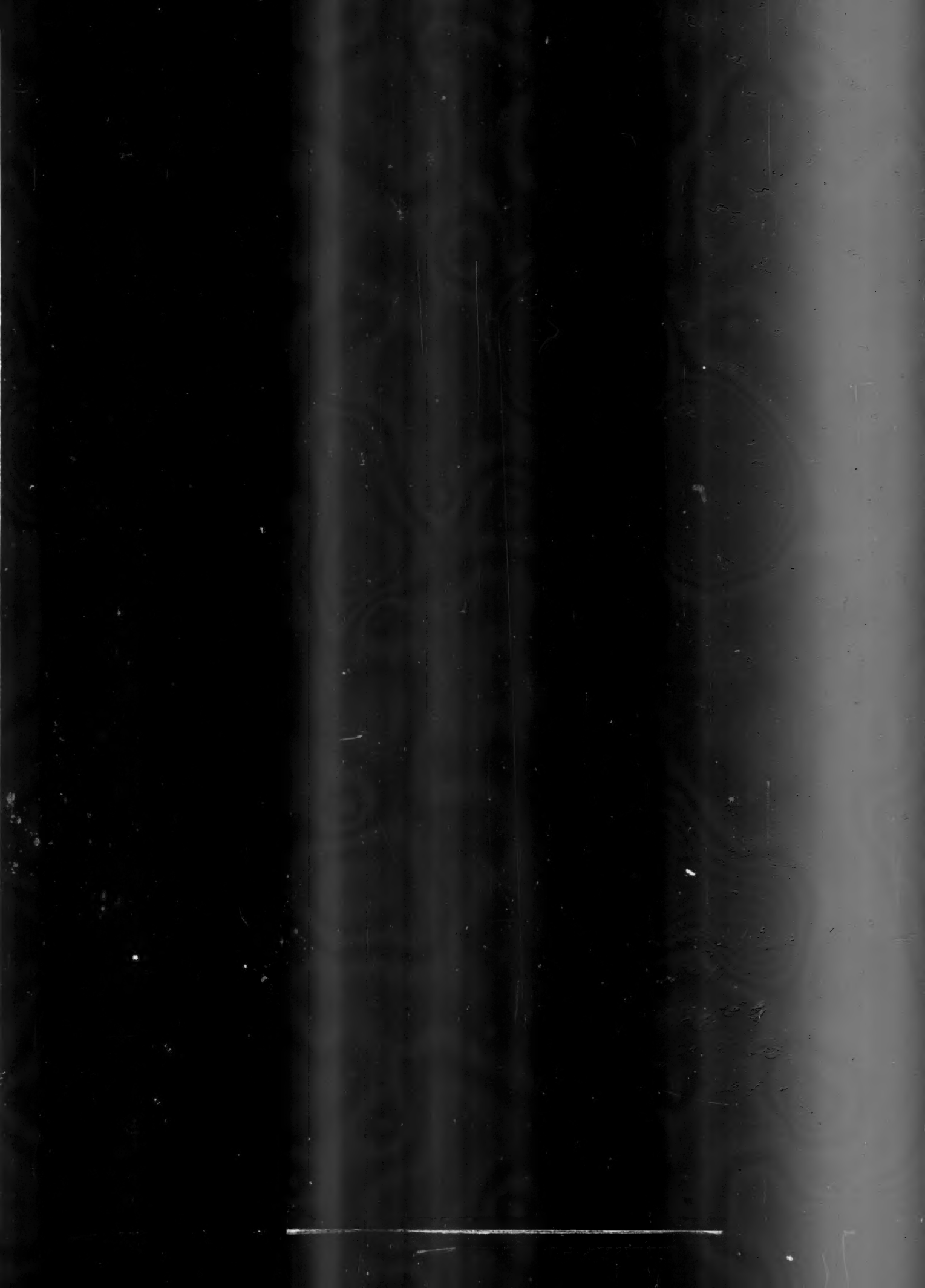
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